

The Lattice Boltzmann Method

Bahman Sheikh and Nirjhor Chakraborty

Claude-Louis Navier



Sir George Stokes



Ludwig Boltzmann

Numerical Microscope for Fluid Mechanics

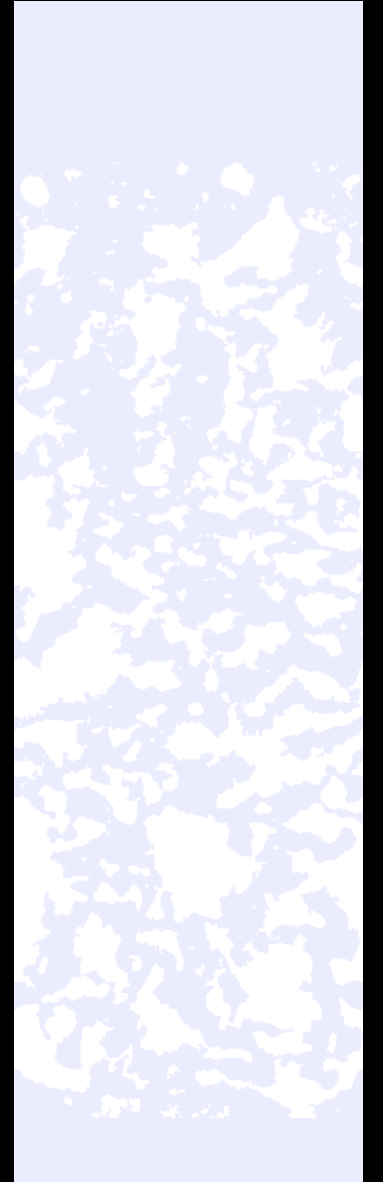
Microscopic Model

using

Mesoscopic Kinetic Equations

to solve

Macroscopic Fluid Mechanics



source: [Michael C. Sukop](#)

Introduction

Meso Scale

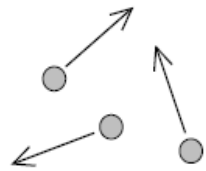
Lattice Gas Cellular Automata (LGCA)

Lattice Boltzmann Method (LBM)

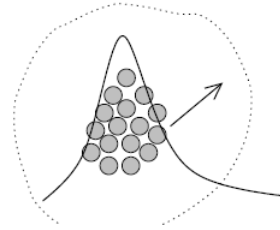
Micro Scale (Bottom Up)

Molecular Dynamics
(Hamilton's Equation)

Direct Simulation Monte Carlo
(DSMC)

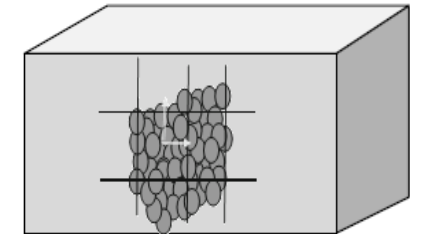


Modelling individual
molecules

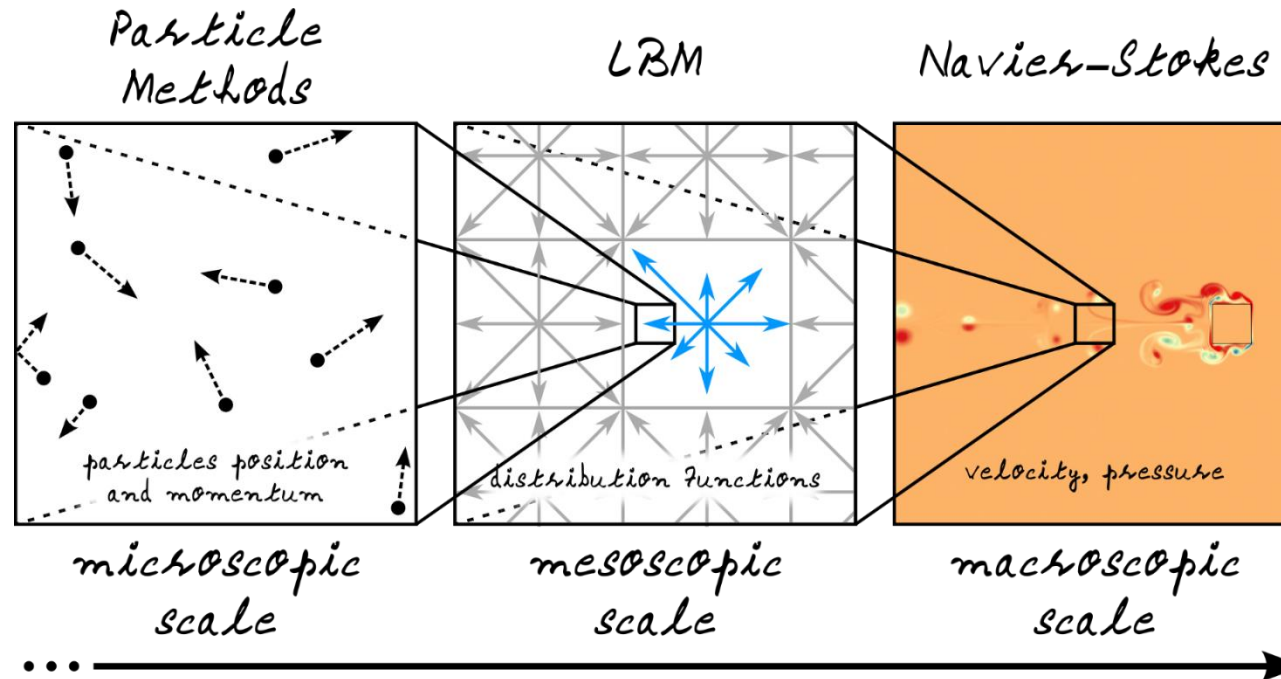


Continuum (Top Down)

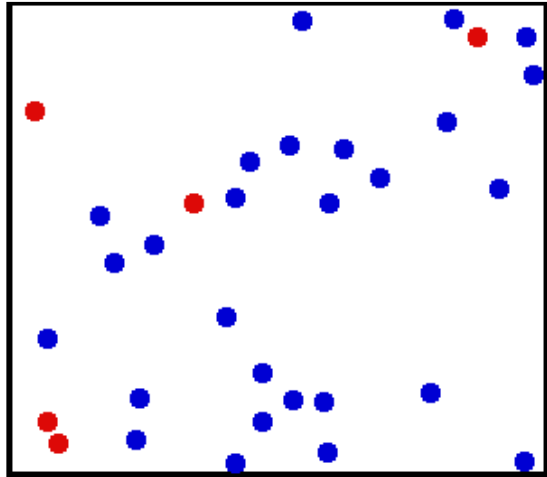
Finite Element
Finite Volume
Finite Difference
Spectral Methods



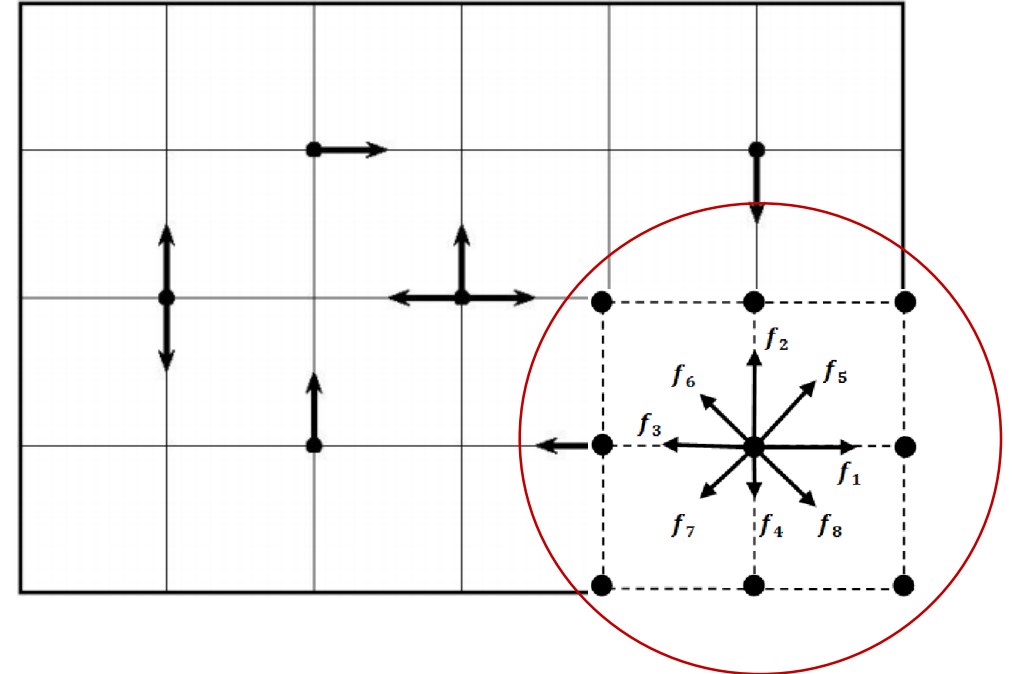
Solving PDE
Navier Stokes



General Principles

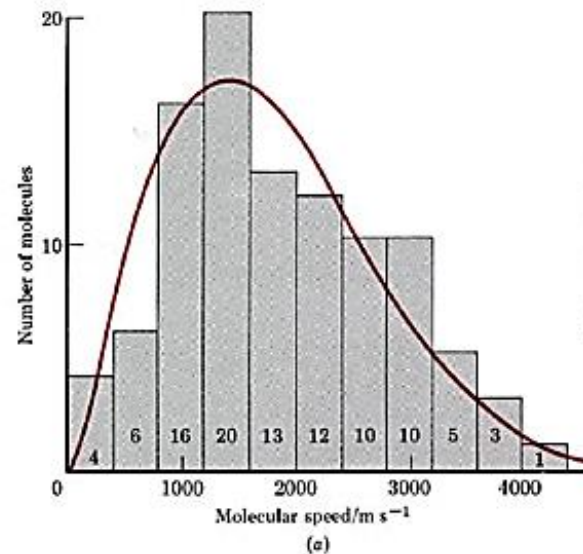


Molecular Behavior



Lattice Gas Automata

The Boltzmann Distribution



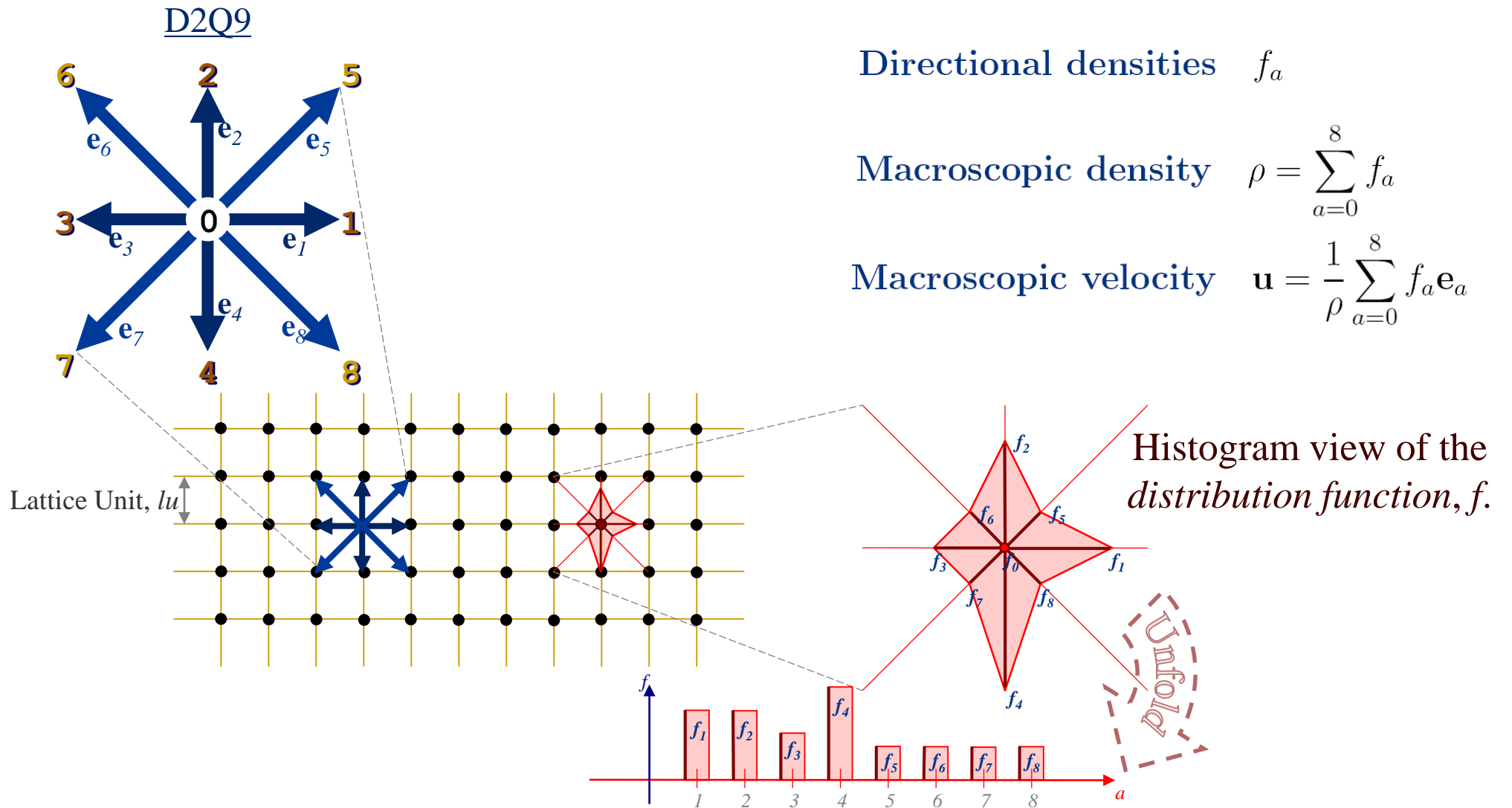
Boltzmann Kinetic Equation

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \mathbf{e} \cdot \nabla f + \frac{\mathbf{F}}{m} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{e}} = \Omega(f)$$

Lattice Boltzmann

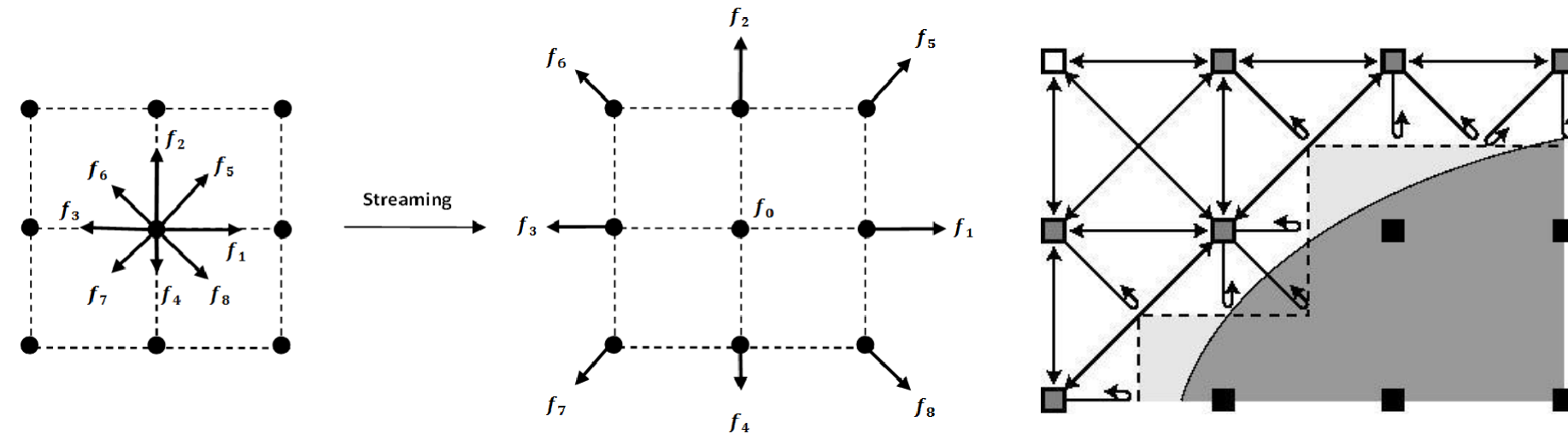
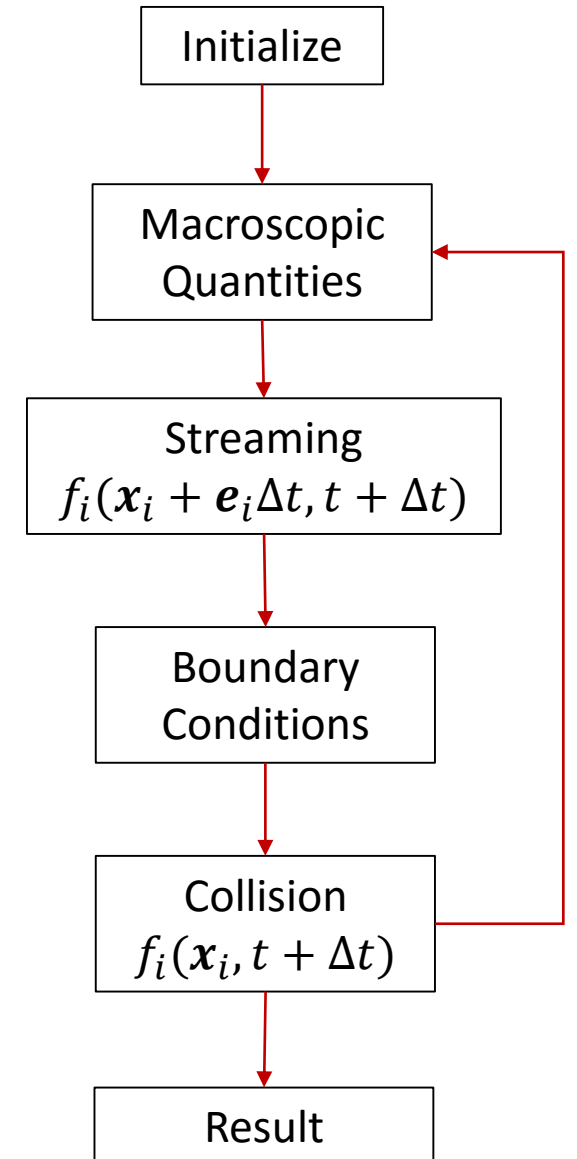
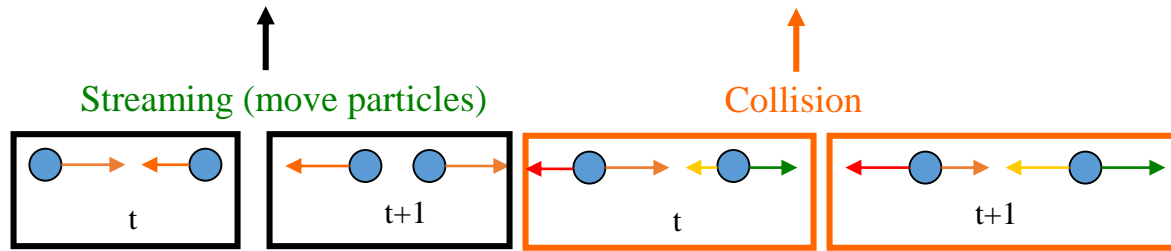
$$f_i(x + e_i \Delta t, t + \Delta t) - f(x, t) = - \frac{[f_i(x, t) - f_i^{eq}(x, t)]}{\tau}$$

General Principles



The Algorithm

$$f_i(x + e_i \Delta t, t + \Delta t) - f(x, t) = - \frac{[f_i(x, t) - f_i^{eq}(x, t)]}{\tau}$$



History

Cellular Automata

- Stanislaw Ulam and John von Neumann 1940s

Lattice Gas Cellular Automata (LGCA)

- Hardy, de Pazzis, Pomeau 1973

Square grid, failed

- Frisch, Hasslacher, Pomeau 1986

Hexagonal grid, Recovered Navier-Stokes

Lattice Boltzmann Model

- McNamara and Zanetti 1988

Suggested Boltzmann Statistics, removed statistical noise

- Qian et al. 1992

Replaced collision matrix, Single relaxation time (BGK)

History

Cellular Automata

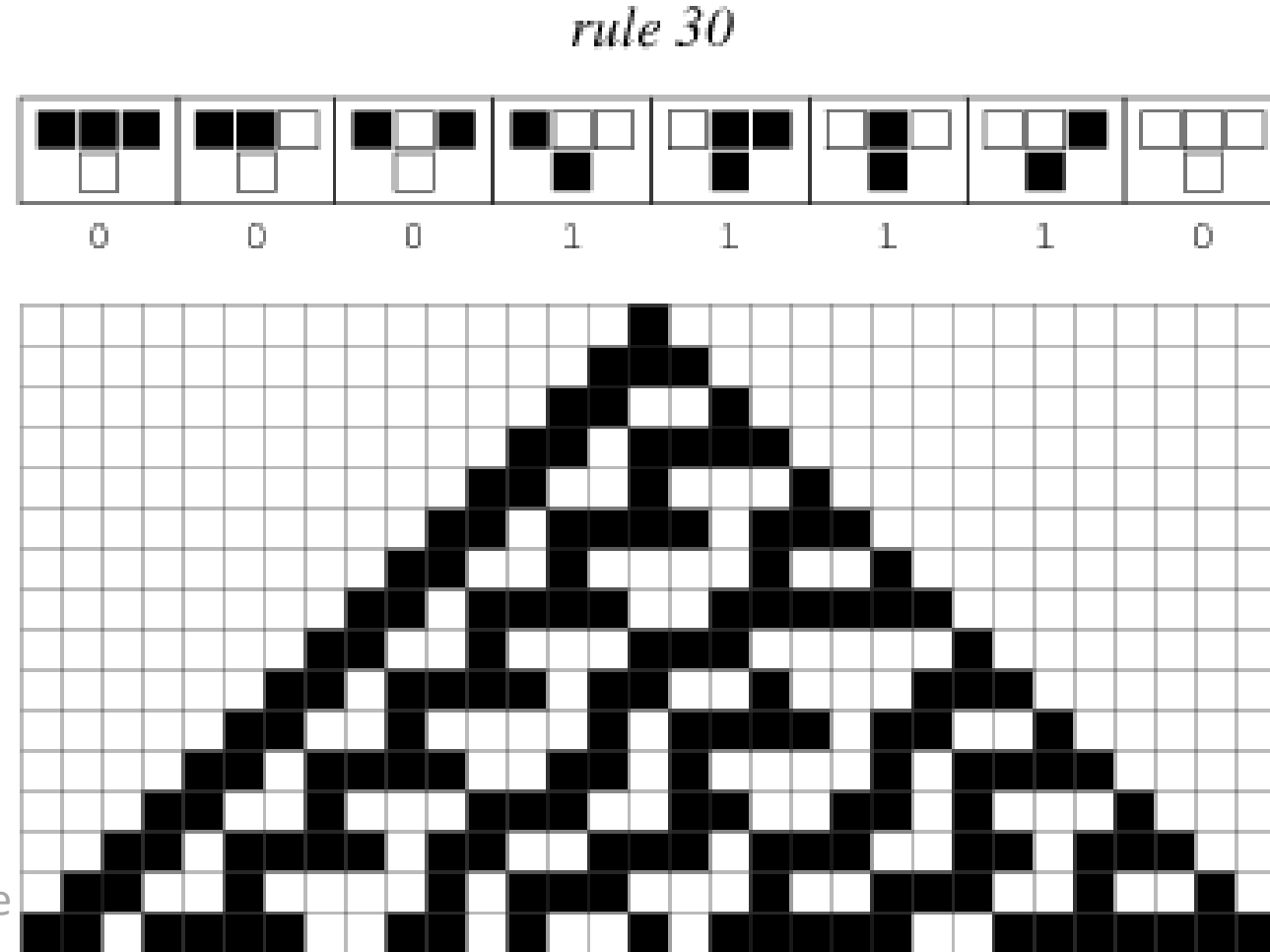
- Stanislaw Ulam and John von Neumann 1940s

Lattice Gas Cellular Automata (LGCA)

- Hardy, de Pazzis, Pomeau 1973
Square grid, failed
- Frisch, Hasslacher, Pomeau 1986
Hexagonal grid, Recovered Navier-Stokes

Lattice Boltzmann Model

- McNamara and Zanetti 1988
Suggested Boltzmann Statistics, removed statistical noise
- Qian et al. 1992
Replaced collision matrix, Single relaxation time (BGK)



source: [Wolfram Mathworld](https://mathworld.wolfram.com/Rule30.html)

History

Cellular Automata

- Stanislaw Ulam and John von Neumann 1940s

Lattice Gas Cellular Automata (LGCA)

- Hardy, de Pazzis, Pomeau 1973

Square grid, failed

- Frisch, Hasslacher, Pomeau 1986

Hexagonal grid, Recovered Navier-Stokes

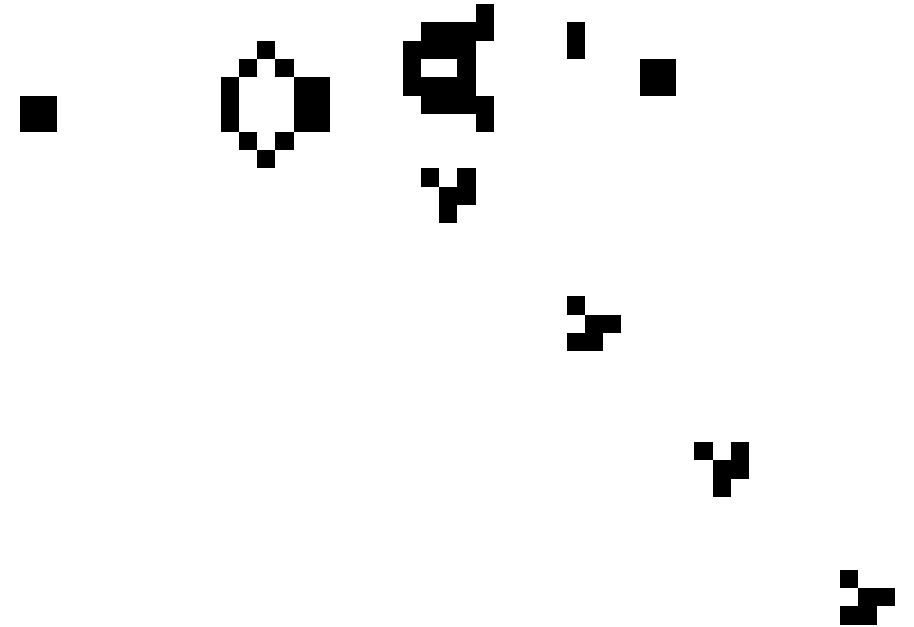
Lattice Boltzmann Model

- McNamara and Zanetti 1988

Suggested Boltzmann Statistics, removed statistical noise

- Qian et al. 1992

Replaced collision matrix, Single relaxation time (BGK)



History

Cellular Automata

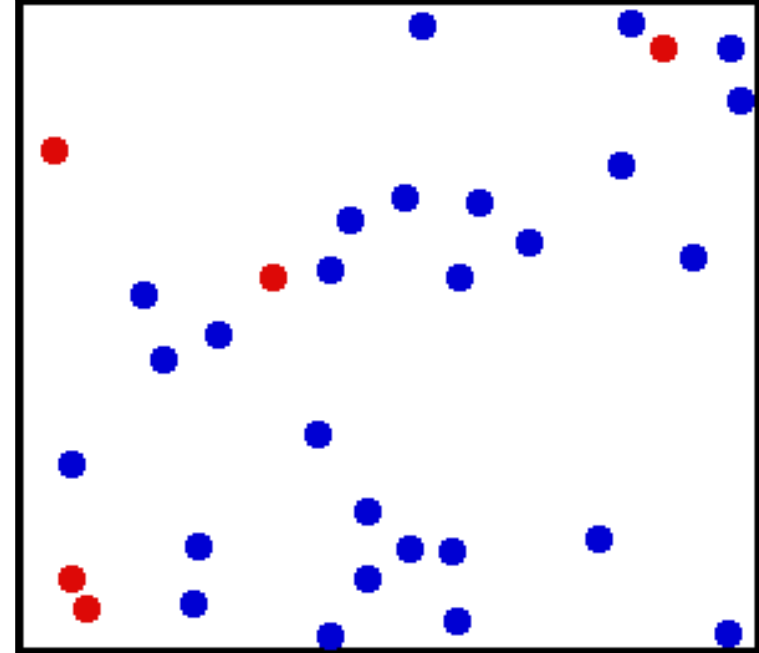
- Stanislaw Ulam and John von Neumann 1940s

Lattice Gas Cellular Automata (LGCA)

- Hardy, de Pazzis, Pomeau 1973
Square grid, failed
- Frisch, Hasslacher, Pomeau 1986
Hexagonal grid, Recovered Navier-Stokes

Lattice Boltzmann Model

- McNamara and Zanetti 1988
Suggested Boltzmann Statistics, removed statistical noise
- Qian et al. 1992
Replaced collision matrix, Single relaxation time (BGK)



$$Re = \frac{vL}{\nu}$$

History

Cellular Automata

- Stanislaw Ulam and John von Neumann 1940s

Lattice Gas Cellular Automata (LGCA)

- Hardy, de Pazzis, Pomeau 1973
Square grid, failed
- Frisch, Hasslacher, Pomeau 1986
Hexagonal grid, Recovered Navier-Stokes

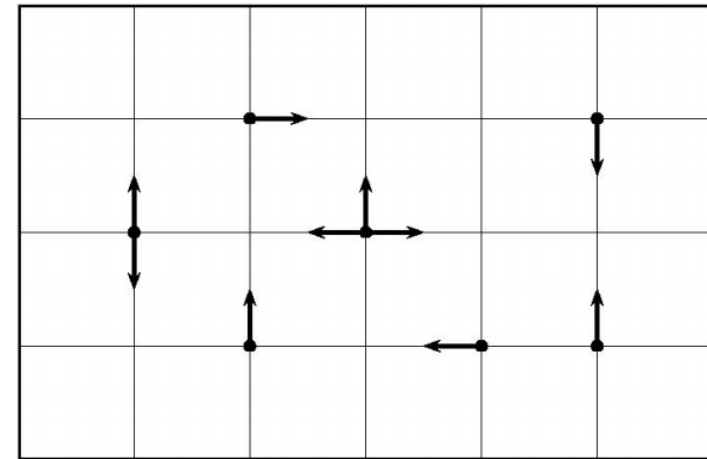
Lattice Boltzmann Model

- McNamara and Zanetti 1988
Suggested Boltzmann Statistics, removed statistical noise
- Qian et al. 1992
Replaced collision matrix, Single relaxation time (BGK)

$$n_i(x + e_i \Delta t, t + \Delta t) - n_i(x, t) = \Omega_i$$

$$n_i = 0, 1$$

$$\Omega_i = -1, 0, 1$$



$$Re = \frac{vL}{\nu}$$

History

Cellular Automata

- Stanislaw Ulam and John von Neumann 1940s

Lattice Gas Cellular Automata (LGCA)

- Hardy, de Pazzis, Pomeau 1973

Square grid, failed

- Frisch, Hasslacher, Pomeau 1986

Hexagonal grid, Recovered Navier-Stokes

Lattice Boltzmann Model

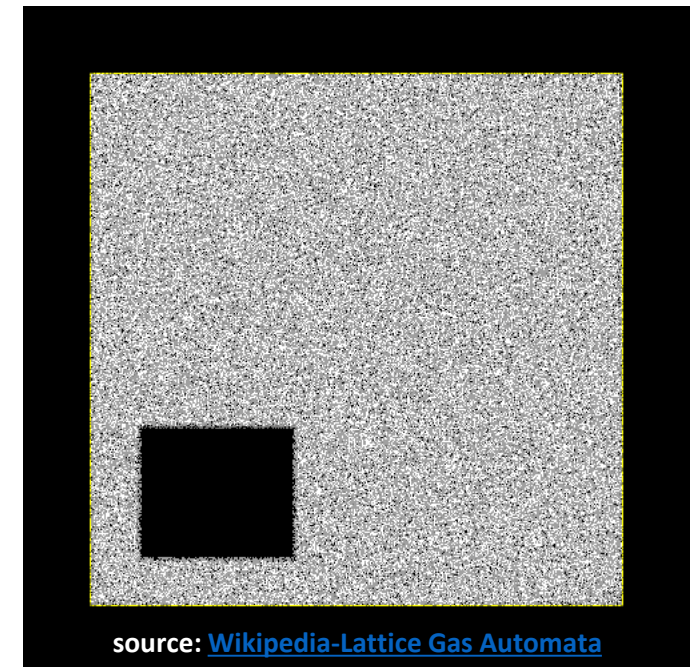
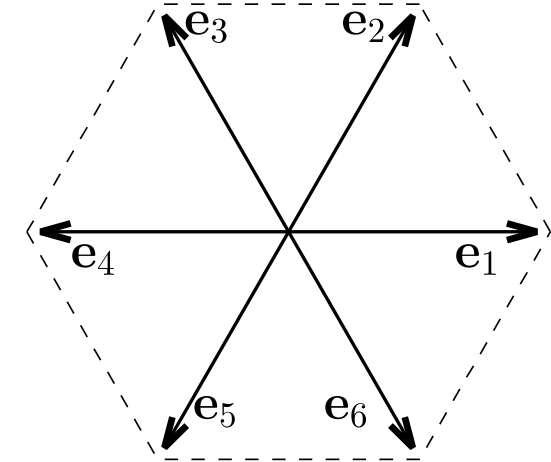
- McNamara and Zanetti 1988

Suggested Boltzmann Statistics, removed statistical noise

- Qian et al. 1992

Replaced collision matrix, Single relaxation time (BGK)

$$n_i(x + e_i \Delta t, t + \Delta t) - n_i(x, t) = \Omega_i$$



History

Cellular Automata

- Stanislaw Ulam and John von Neumann 1940s

Lattice Gas Cellular Automata (LGCA)

- Hardy, de Pazzis, Pomeau 1973

Square grid, failed

- Frisch, Hasslacher, Pomeau 1986

Hexagonal grid, Recovered Navier-Stokes

Lattice Boltzmann Model

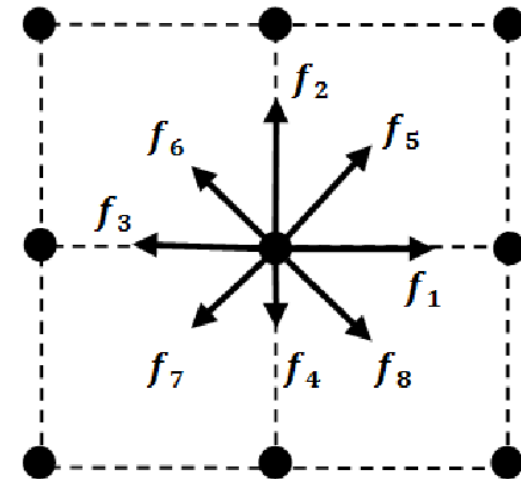
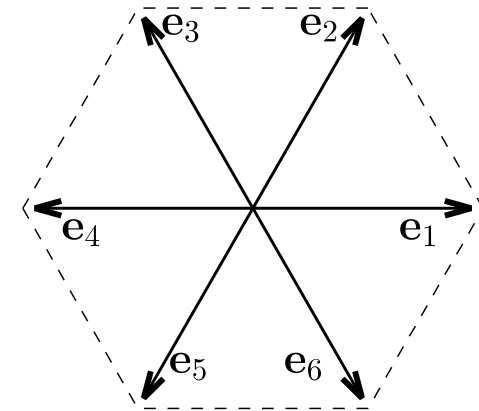
- McNamara and Zanetti 1988

Suggested Boltzmann Statistics, removed statistical noise

- Qian et al. 1992

Replaced collision matrix, Single relaxation time (BGK)

$$n_i(x + e_i \Delta t, t + \Delta t) - n_i(x, t) = \Omega_i$$



$$f_i(x + e_i \Delta t, t + \Delta t) - f_i(x, t) = \Omega_i \frac{[f_i(x, t) - f_i^{eq}(x, t)]}{\tau}$$

History

Cellular Automata

- Stanislaw Ulam and John von Neumann 1940s

Lattice Gas Cellular Automata (LGCA)

- Hardy, de Pazzis, Pomeau 1973

Square grid, failed

- Frisch, Hasslacher, Pomeau 1986

Hexagonal grid, N-S

Lattice Boltzmann Model

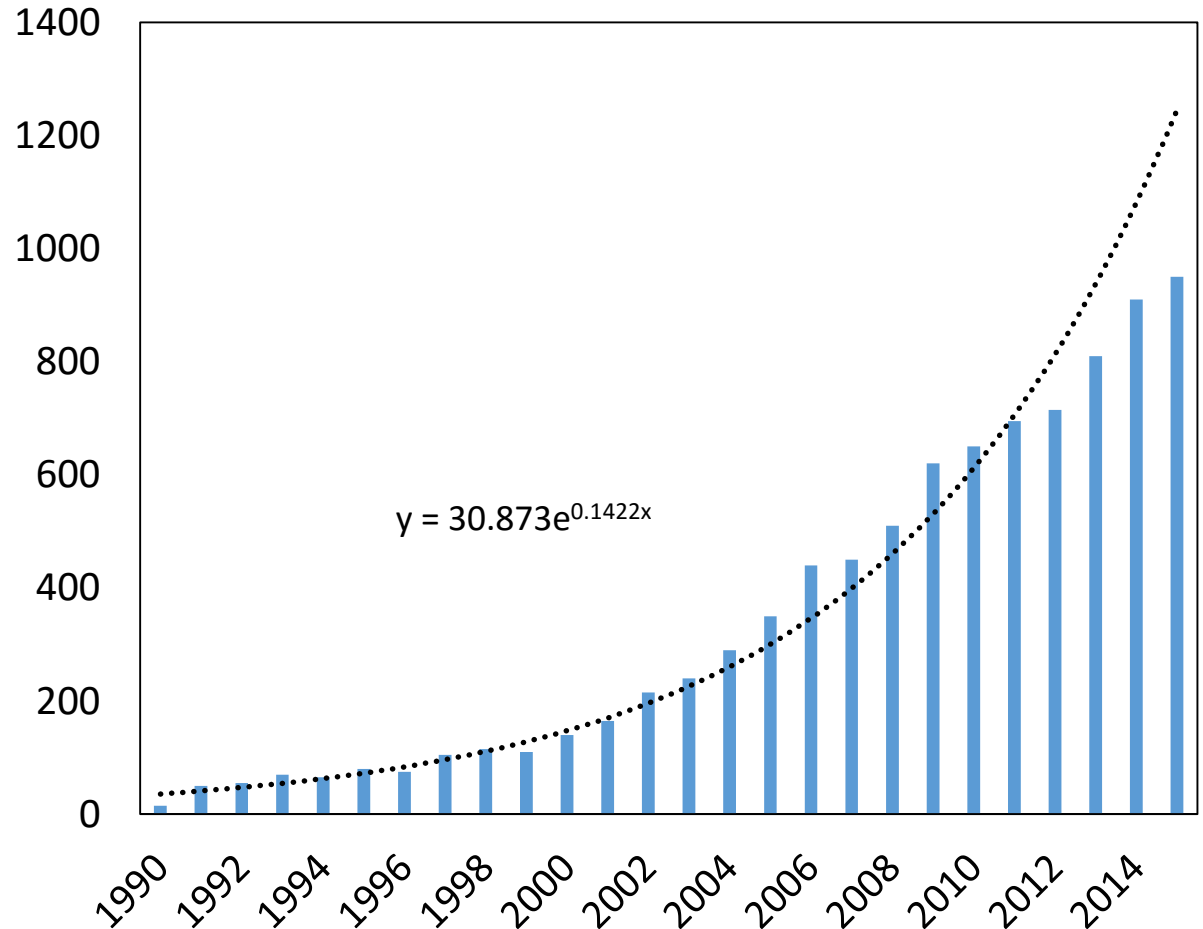
- McNamara and Zanetti 1988

Suggested Boltzmann Statistics, removed statistical noise

- Qian et al. 1992

Replaced collision matrix, Single relaxation time (BGK)

Exponential growth in publications



Advantages

vs. Lattice Gas Automata

- No statistical noise
- Flow parameters like viscosity can be tuned

vs. Navier Stokes

- Consists only of first order PDEs
- Simple to discretize
- No non-linear convective term to deal with
- No need to solve Poisson equation for pressure

Parallel Computing

- Near ideal (linear) scalability in parallel computing
- Cells interact only with immediate neighbors and computations done locally

Flexible Geometry

- Mesh-free
- Geometric complexity is not a challenge
- This includes the solid moving and domain deformation

Multi Phase

- Efficient inter-phase interaction handling for multiphase flow
- Phase interaction is inherently included in the particle collisions

Current Drawbacks

Lattice-Boltzmann Space – Real Space

- Hard to prescribe compressibility and permeability
- Thermo-hydrodynamics missing

Computationally Expensive

- Uniform square grids
- Cannot combine high and low resolution regions

Only for Low Mach Number

- The f^{eq} in the BGK (Bhatnagar-Gross-Krook) collision operator is an expansion of the Maxwell-Boltzmann distribution function
- Particles can only move 1 lattice step per unit time

Under Development

Numerical Instabilities

Cannot handle very low viscosity,

Unproven for high Knudsen number regimes

- Concept of viscosity unclear in micro-pore
- New ideas like multi-relaxation time (MRT) still to be tested for validity

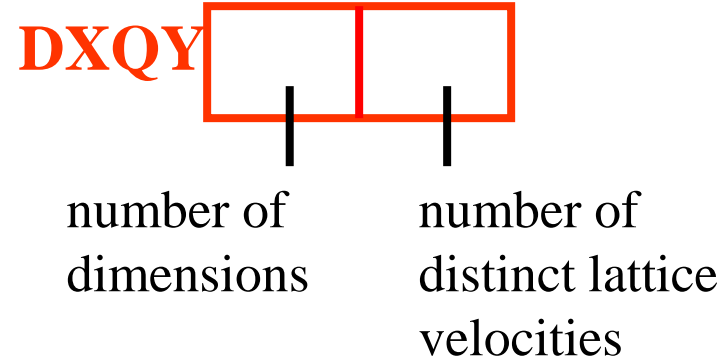
Lattice Boltzmann Method

Boltzmann's idea

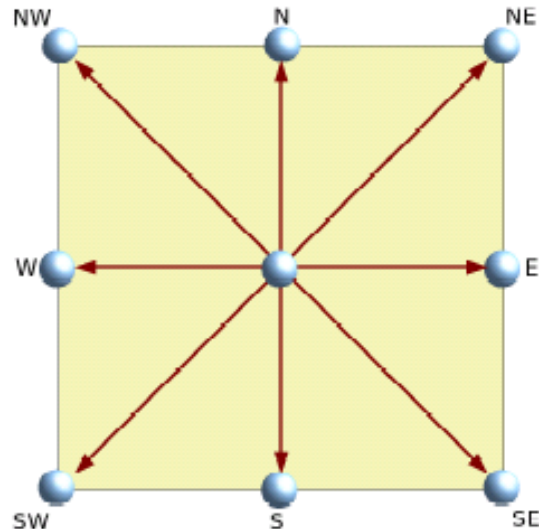
LBM Nomination

Common lattice nomination:

Qian et al. (1992)



Model for two dimensions:



D2Q9

- most common model in 2D
- 9 discrete velocity directions
- eight distribution functions with the particles moving to the neighboring cells
- one distribution function according to the resting particle

LBM Nomination

Models for three dimensions:

D3Q15

small range of
stability

D3Q19

good compromise
between the two
models

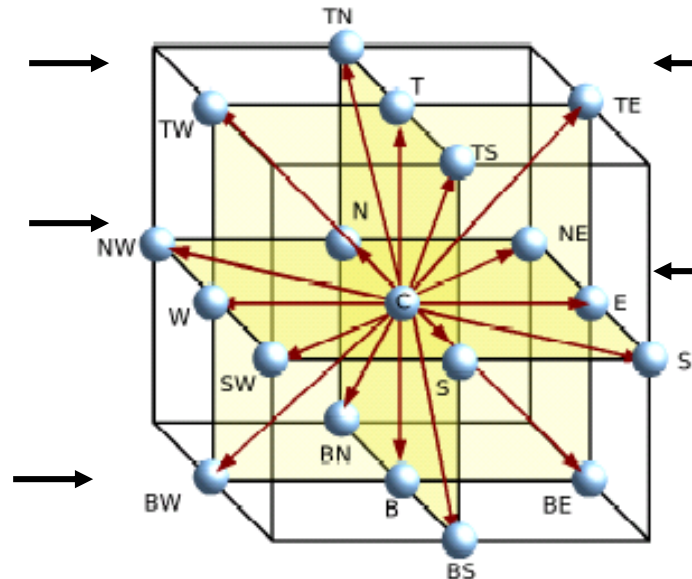
D3Q27

highest
computational
effort

19 distribution functions

one stationary velocity in the
center for the particles at rest

6 velocity directions along the
Cartesian axes



12 velocities combining two
coordinate directions

resting particles don't move in
the following time step, but:
changing amount of resting
particles due to collisions

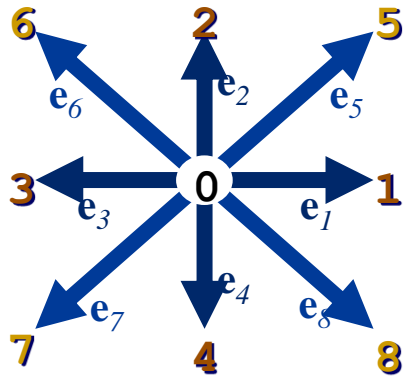
Streaming and Collision

$$f_a(x + e_a \Delta t, t + \Delta t) = f_a(x, t) - \Omega$$

streaming
collision

Single relaxation time, Bhatnagar-Gross-Krook (BGK):

$$f_a(x + e_a \Delta t, t + \Delta t) = f_a(x, t) - \frac{f_a(x, t) - f_a^{eq}(x, t)}{\tau}$$



D2Q9

$a = 0$ to 8

$$f_a^{eq}(x) = w_a \rho(x) \left[1 + 3 \frac{e_a \cdot \mathbf{u}}{c^2} + \frac{9}{2} \frac{(e_a \cdot \mathbf{u})^2}{c^4} - \frac{3}{2} \frac{\mathbf{u}^2}{c^2} \right]$$

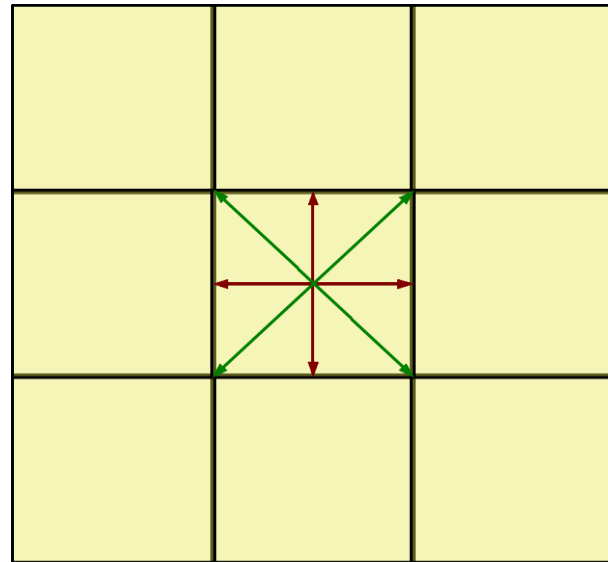
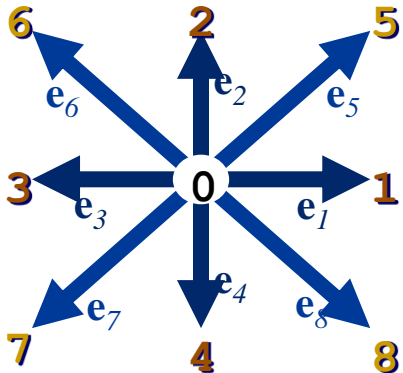
$$w_0 = \frac{4}{9}; \quad w_{1,2,3,4} = \frac{1}{9}, \quad w_{5,6,7,8} = \frac{1}{36} \quad \rho = \sum_a f_a \quad \mathbf{u} = \frac{1}{\rho} \sum_a e_a f_a$$

Streaming

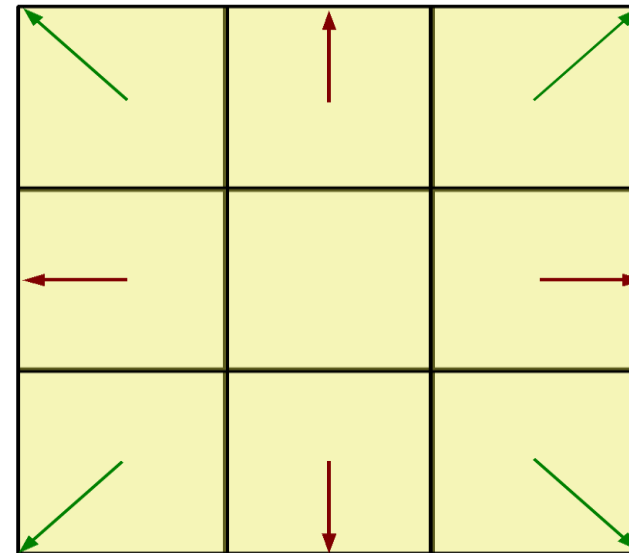
Streaming step:

streaming of the particles to their neighboring cells according to their velocity directions.

$$f_a(x + e_a \Delta t, t + \Delta t) = f_a(x, t + \Delta t)$$

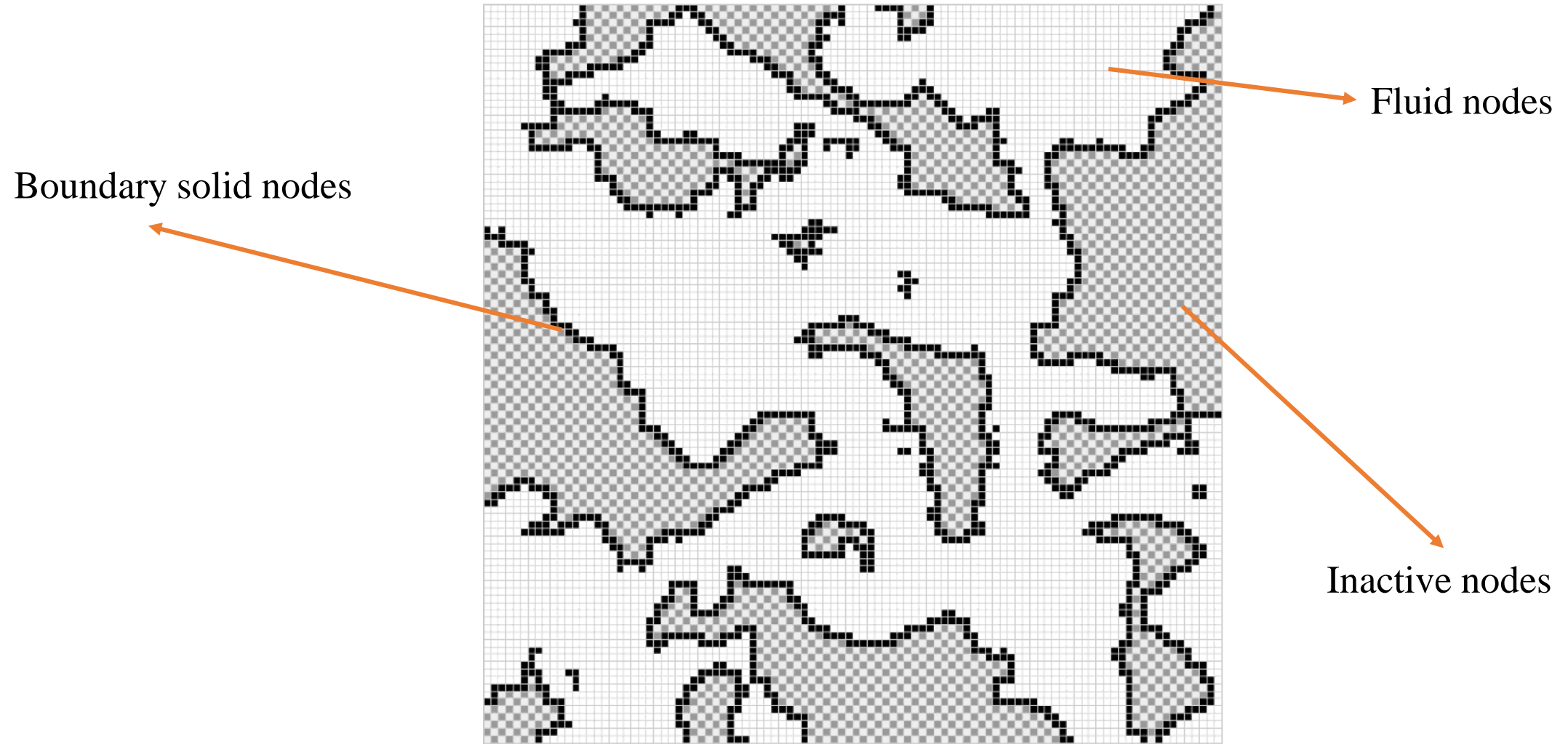


particle distribution before
stream step



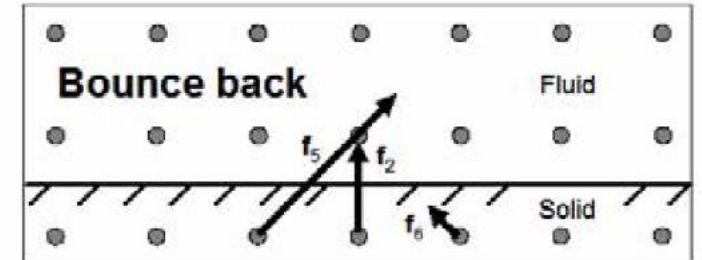
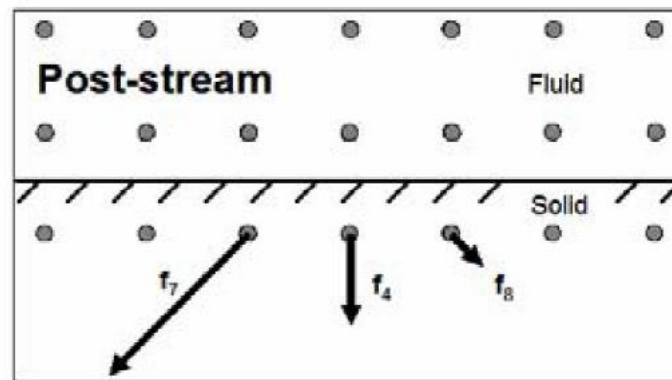
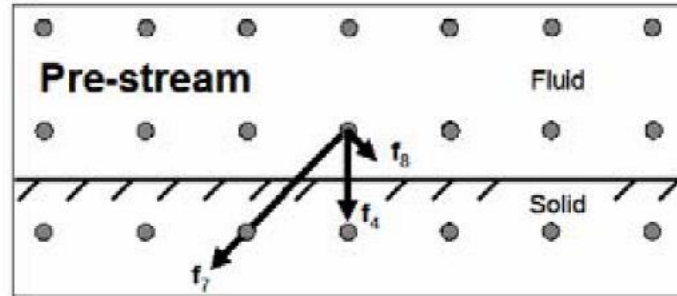
particle distribution after
stream step

Bounceback Boundaries

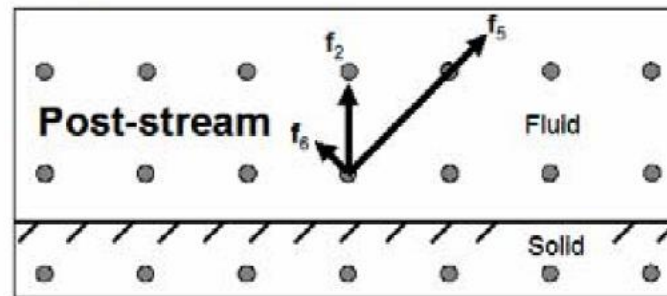


Bounceback Boundaries

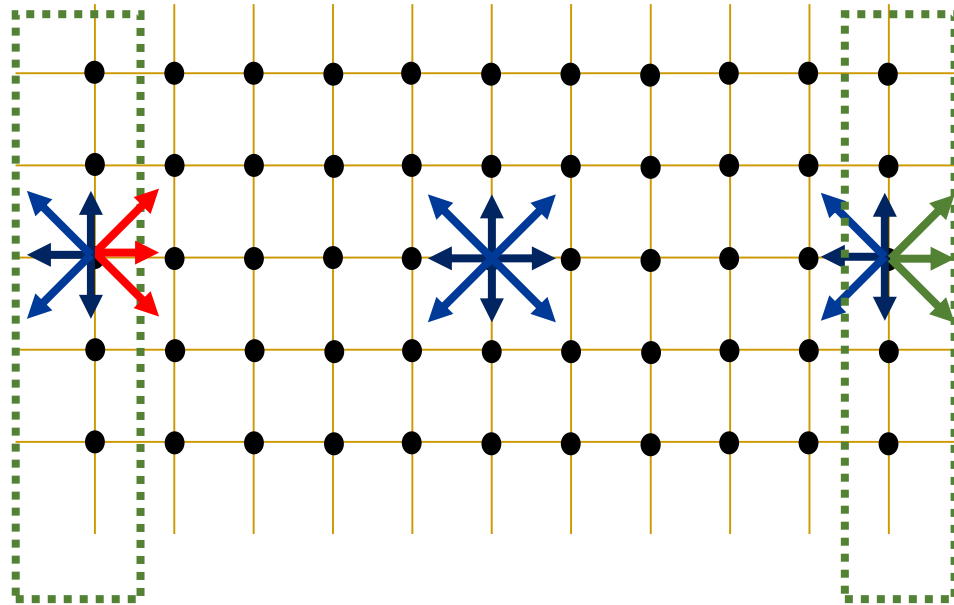
$t = t$



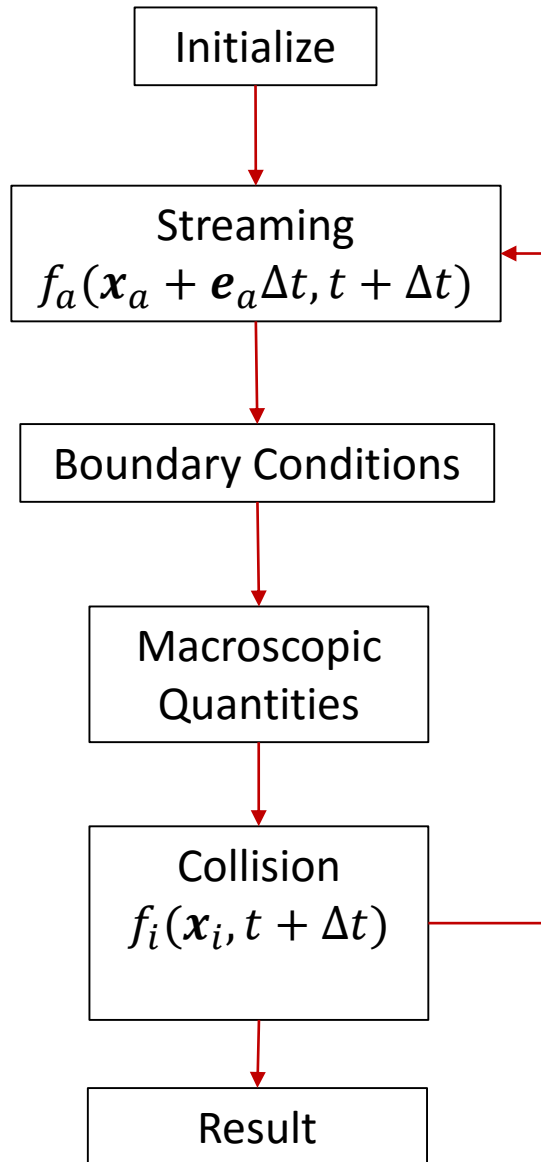
$t = t + \Delta t$



Periodic Boundaries



LBM Algorithm



$$f_a(x + e_a \Delta t, t + \Delta t) = f_a(x, t + \Delta t)$$

$$\rho = \sum_a f_a \quad \mathbf{u} = \frac{1}{\rho} \sum_a e_a f_a$$

$$f_a^{eq}(x) = w_a \rho(x) \left[1 + 3 \frac{e_a \cdot \mathbf{u}}{c^2} + \frac{9}{2} \frac{(e_a \cdot \mathbf{u})^2}{c^4} - \frac{3}{2} \frac{\mathbf{u}^2}{c^2} \right]$$

$$f_a(x + e_a \Delta t, t + \Delta t) = f_a(x, t) - \frac{f_a(x, t) - f_a^{eq}(x, t)}{\tau}$$

Two Phase Lattice Boltzmann Method

Two phase lattice Boltzmann methods

- Gunstensen et al. (1991),
- Shan & Chen (1993, 1994)
- Free energy by Swift et al. (1995, 1996)
- ...
- Nourgaliev et al. (2005)

Shan-Chen Two Phase Formulation

- Fluid-Fluid forces:

$$F_{c,\sigma} = -G_c \rho_\sigma(x, t) \sum_m w_m \rho_{\bar{\sigma}}(x + e_m \Delta t, t) e_m$$

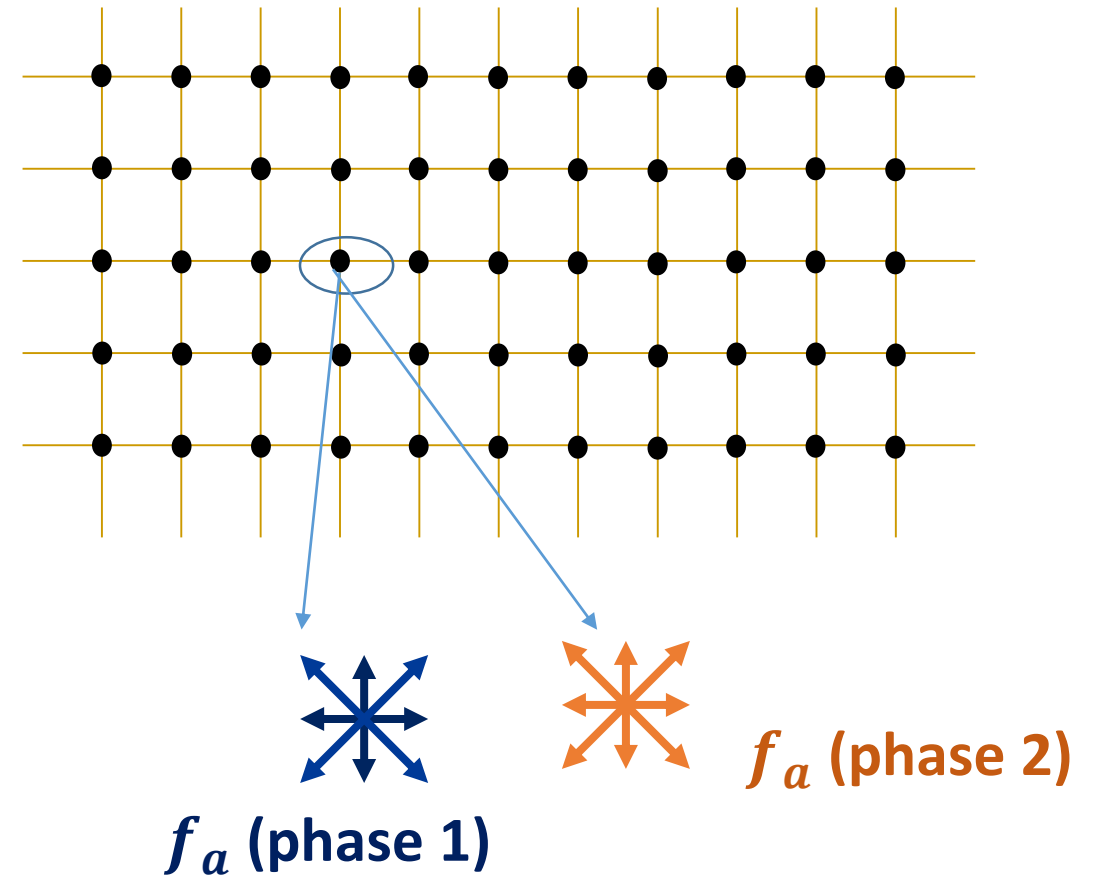
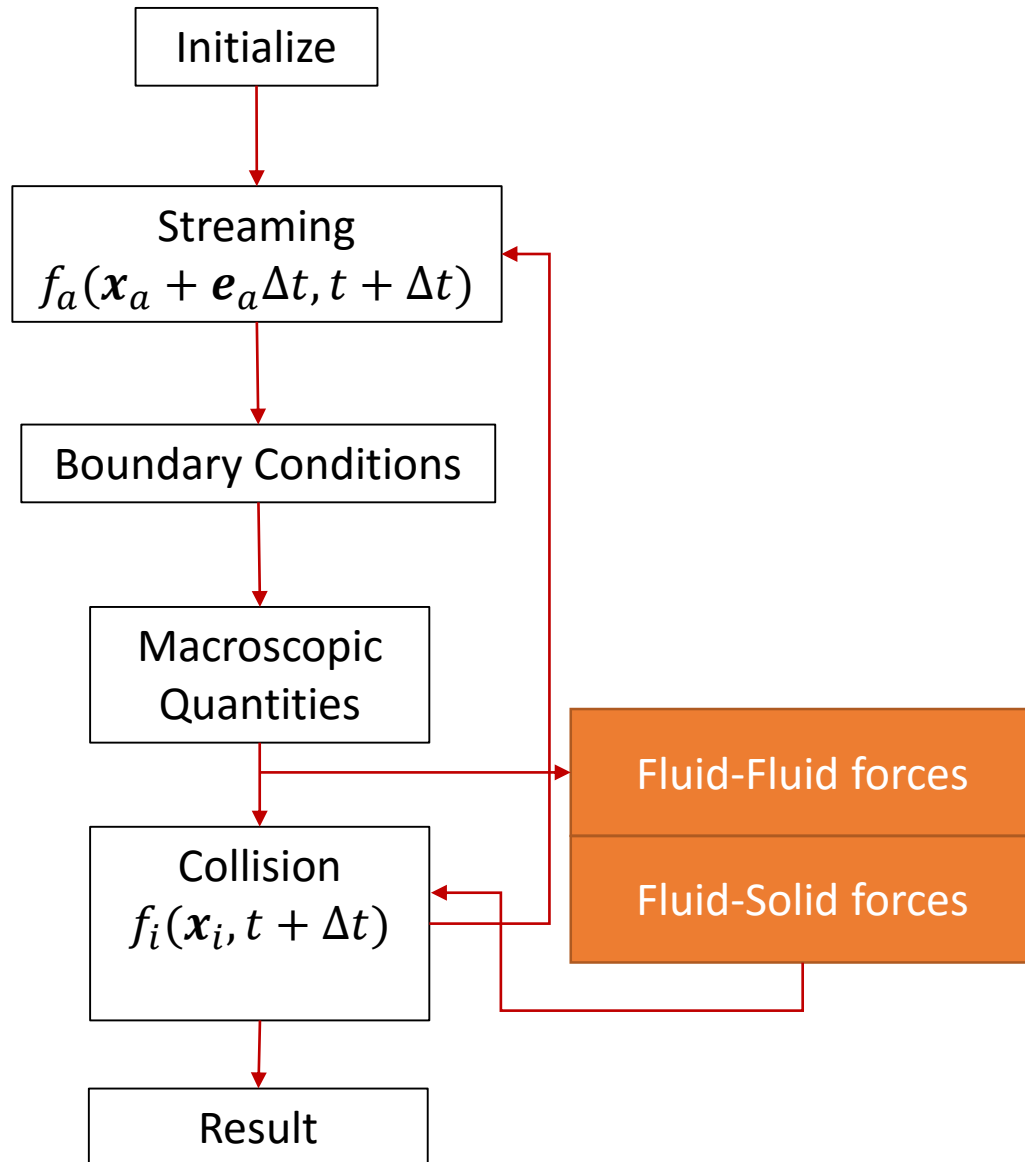
- Solid-Fluid forces:

$$F_{a,\sigma} = -G_{a,\sigma} \rho_\sigma(x, t) \sum_m w_m s(x + e_m \Delta t, t) e_m$$

- Incorporating external forces on each phase

$$\vec{u}' = \frac{\sum_\sigma \left(\sum_m \frac{f_m^\sigma \vec{e}_m}{\tau_\sigma} \right)}{\sum_\sigma \frac{\rho_\sigma}{\tau_\sigma}} \quad \vec{u}_\sigma^{eq} = \vec{u}' + \frac{\tau_\sigma F_\sigma}{\rho_\sigma}$$

LBM Algorithm (two-phase)



Calculation Example

Problem Description

- D2Q9 model
- 9 lattices
- Channel flow from left to right
- Bounce back and periodic boundary
- Initial parameter

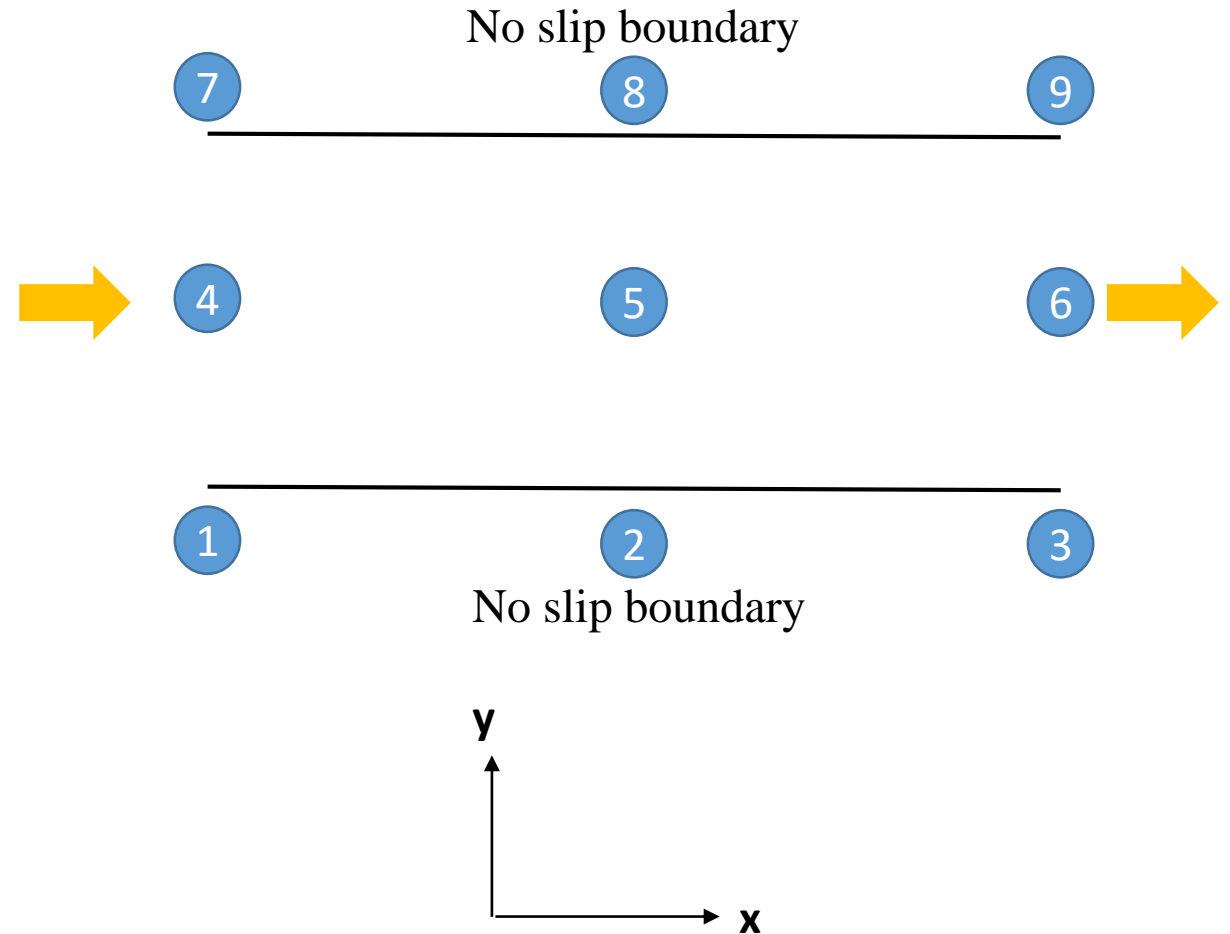
$$\rho = 1.0 \frac{\text{gr}}{\text{cm}^3}$$

$$a = 0.001 \text{ cm/s}$$

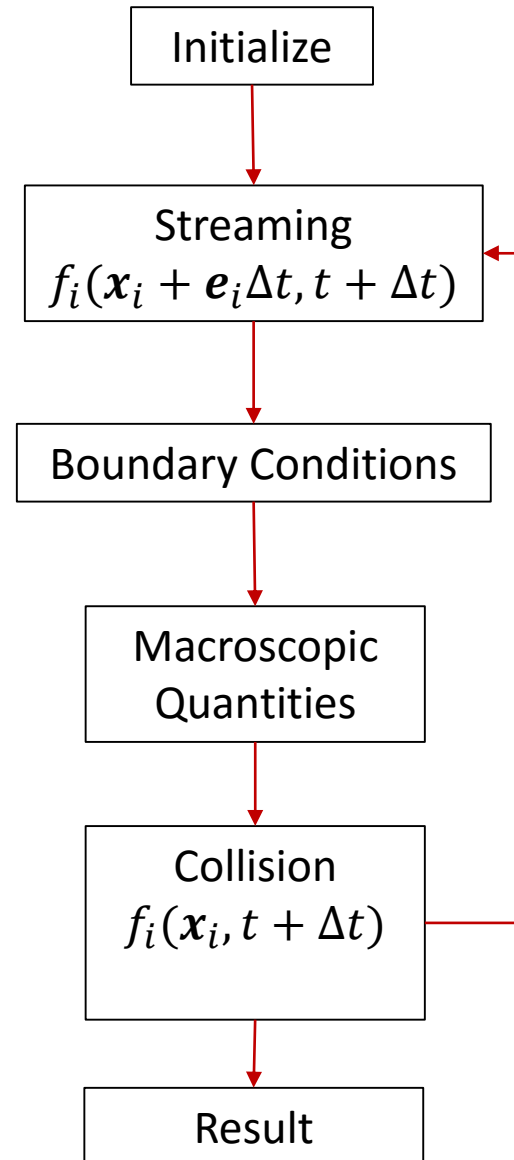
$$\textit{initial velocity} = 0.0$$

$$\tau = 1.0$$

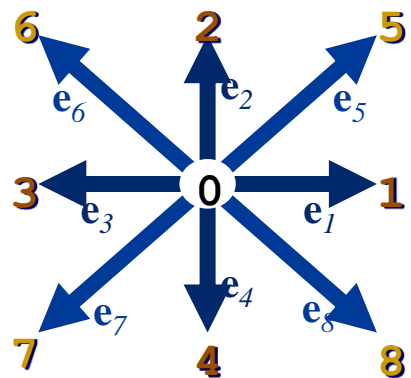
$$c = 1.0$$



Calculation Example



Calculation Example: Initialization

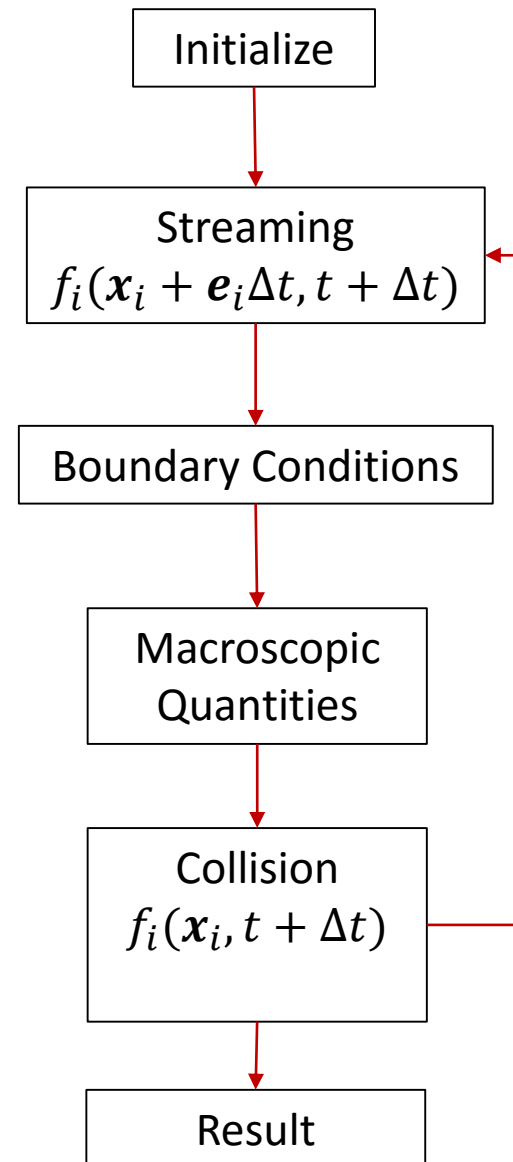
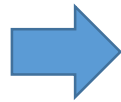


$$f_a(x) = w_a \rho(x) \left[1 + 3 \frac{e_a \cdot \mathbf{u}}{c^2} + \frac{9 (e_a \cdot \mathbf{u})^2}{2 c^4} - \frac{3 \mathbf{u}^2}{2 c^2} \right]$$

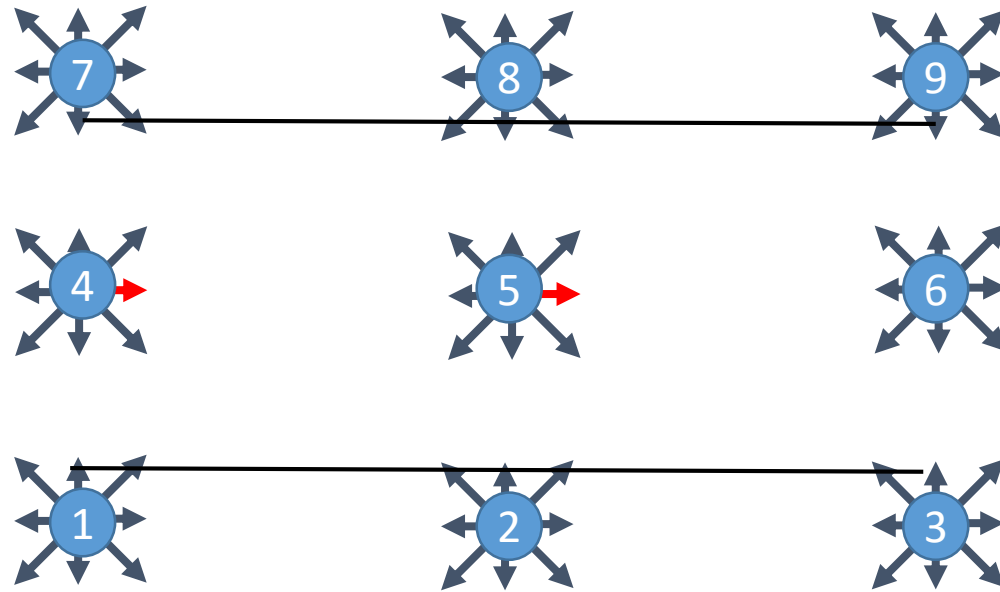
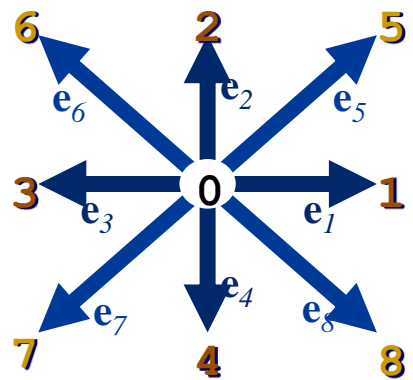
$$w_0 = \frac{4}{9}; \quad w_{1,2,3,4} = \frac{1}{9}, \quad w_{5,6,7,8} = \frac{1}{36}$$

For nodes 4,5,6	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} f_0 = \frac{4}{9} \\ f_{1-4} = \frac{1}{9} \\ f_{5-8} = \frac{1}{36} \end{array} \right.$	For nodes 1,2,3,7,8,9	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} f_0 = 0 \\ f_{1-4} = 0 \\ f_{5-8} = 0 \end{array} \right.$
-----------------	---	-----------------------	--

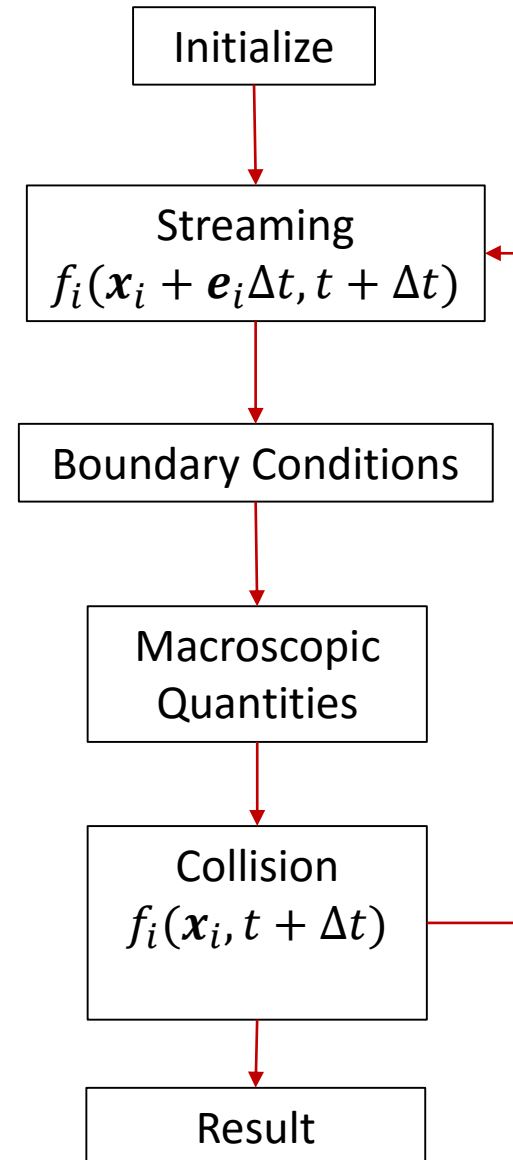
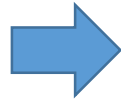
Calculation Example



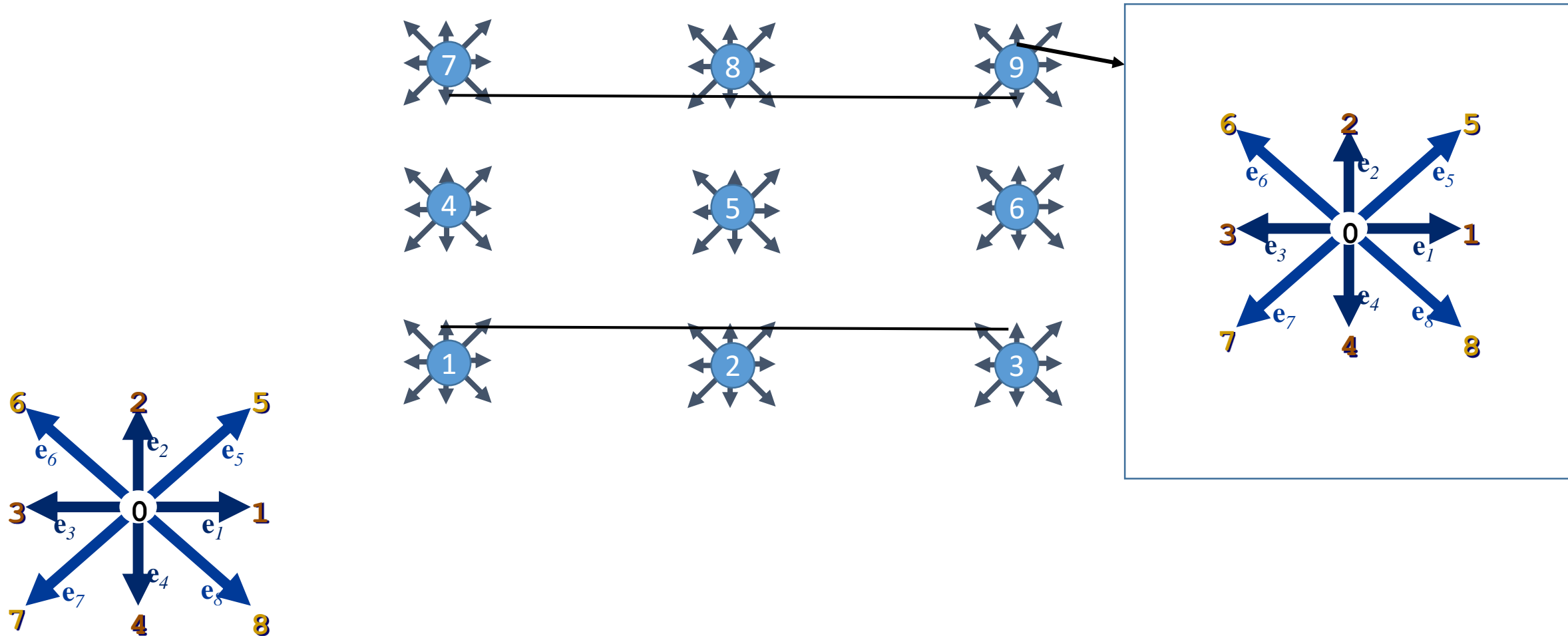
Calculation Example: Streaming



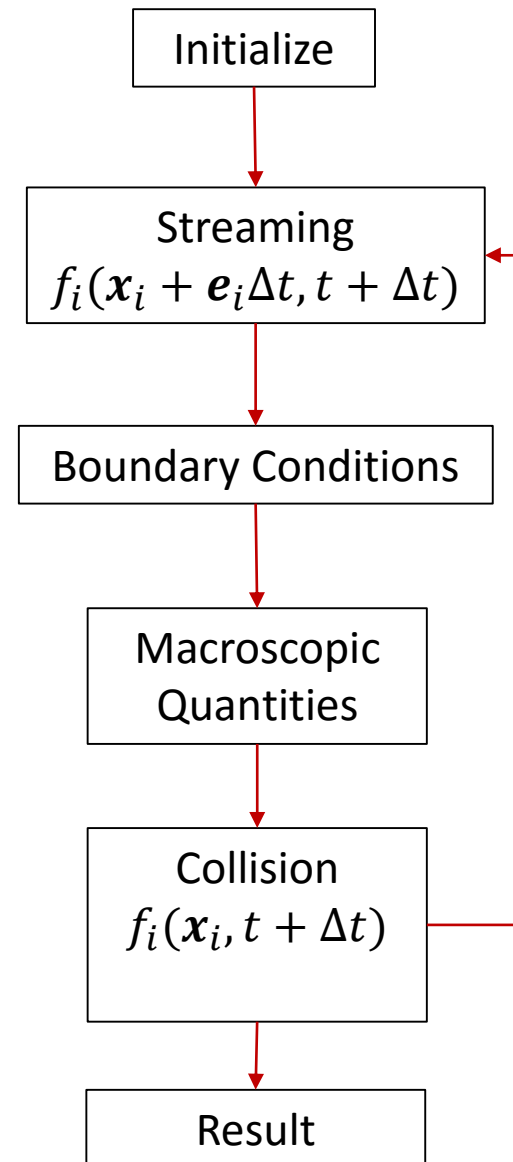
Calculation Example



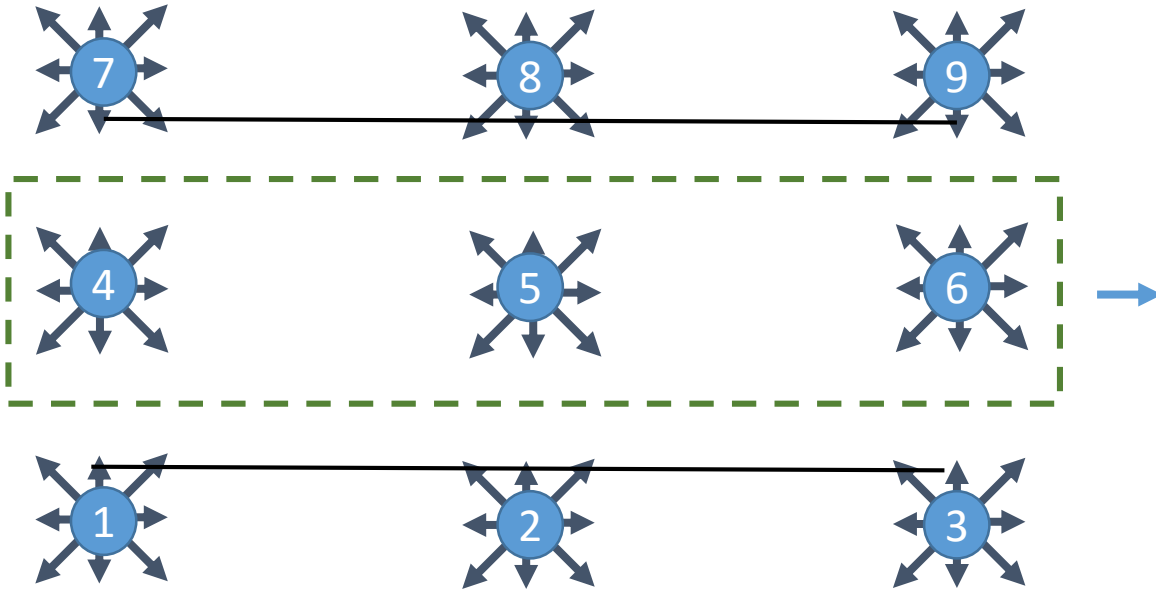
Calculation Example: Boundary conditions



Calculation Example



Calculation Example: Macroscopic Quantities

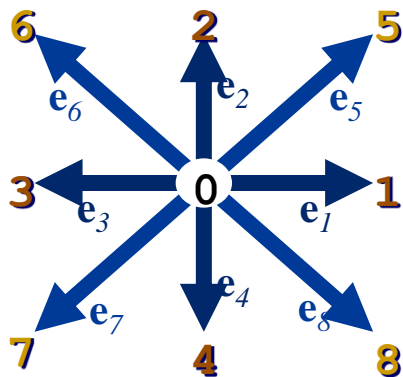


$$\rho = \sum_a f_a \quad \mathbf{u} = \frac{1}{\rho} \sum_a e_a f_a$$

$$u_x = \frac{1}{\rho} [(f_1 + f_5 + f_8) - (f_6 + f_3 + f_7)]$$

$$u_y = \frac{1}{\rho} [(f_2 + f_5 + f_6) - (f_4 + f_7 + f_8)]$$

➔ $\rho = 1, u_x = u_y = 0.0$

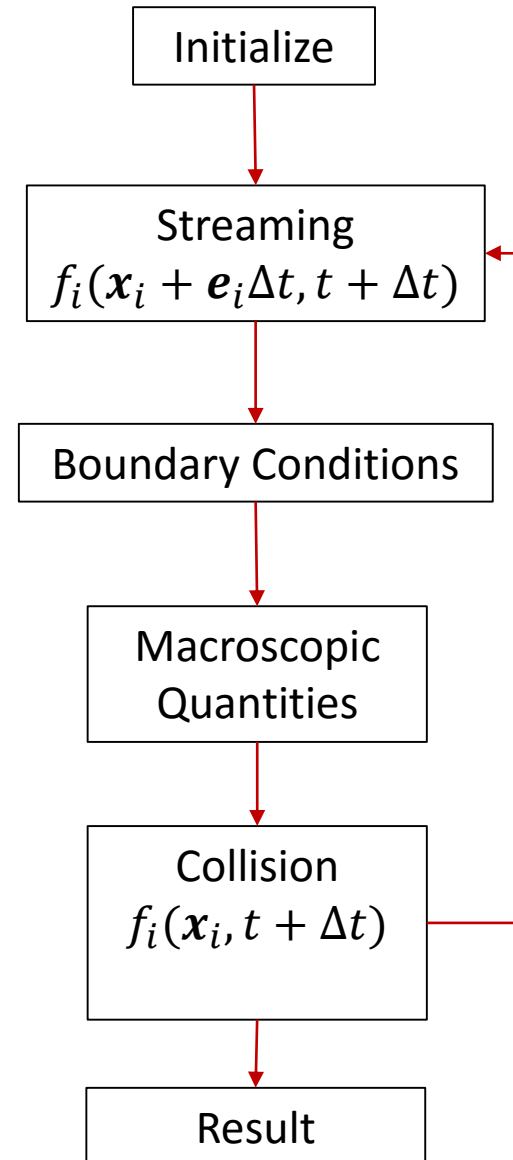
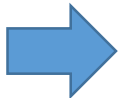


$$u = u + \frac{\tau F}{\rho}$$

$$u_x = u_x + \frac{0.001 \times 1}{1}$$

$$u_y = 0.0$$

Calculation Example



Calculation Example: Collision

$$f_a^{eq}(x) = w_a \rho(x) \left[1 + 3 \frac{e_a \cdot u}{c^2} + \frac{9 (e_a \cdot u)^2}{2 c^4} - \frac{3 u^2}{2 c^2} \right]$$

$$u = \begin{pmatrix} u_x \\ u_y \end{pmatrix} \quad e_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad e_6 = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$f_1^{eq}(4)$:

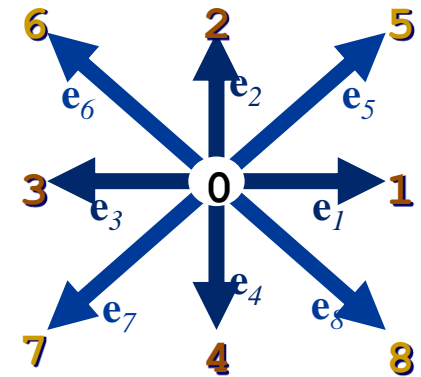
$$u = \begin{pmatrix} 0.001 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad w_1 = \frac{1}{9}, \quad \rho(4) = 1.0$$

$$e_1 \cdot u = 0.001 \quad \longrightarrow \quad f_1^{eq}(4) = 0.111445$$

$$f_a(\mathbf{X} + e_a \Delta t, t + \Delta t) = f_a(\mathbf{x}, t) - \frac{[f_a(\mathbf{x}, t) - f_a^{eq}(\mathbf{x}, t)]}{\tau}$$

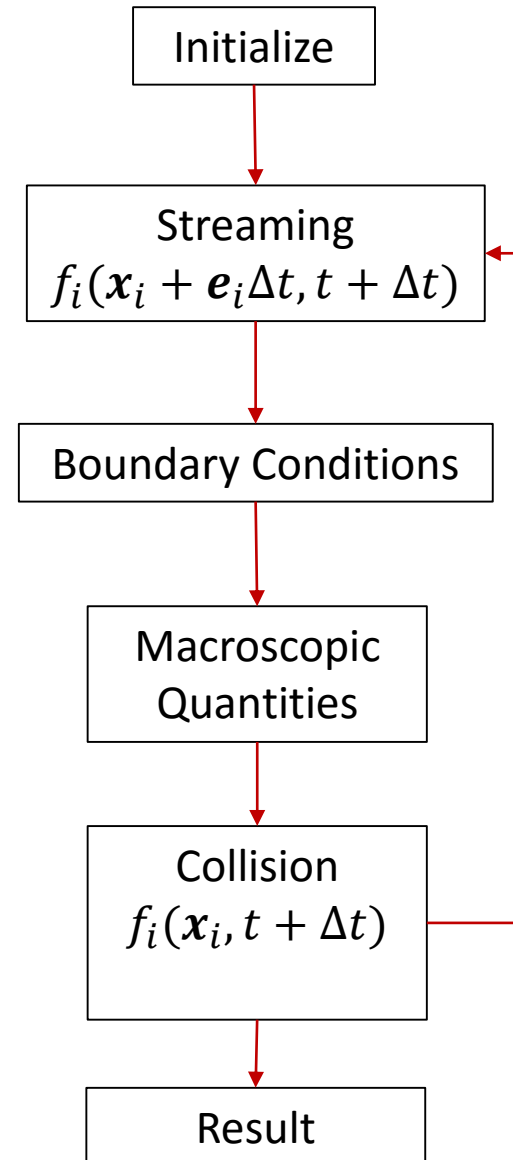
new

old



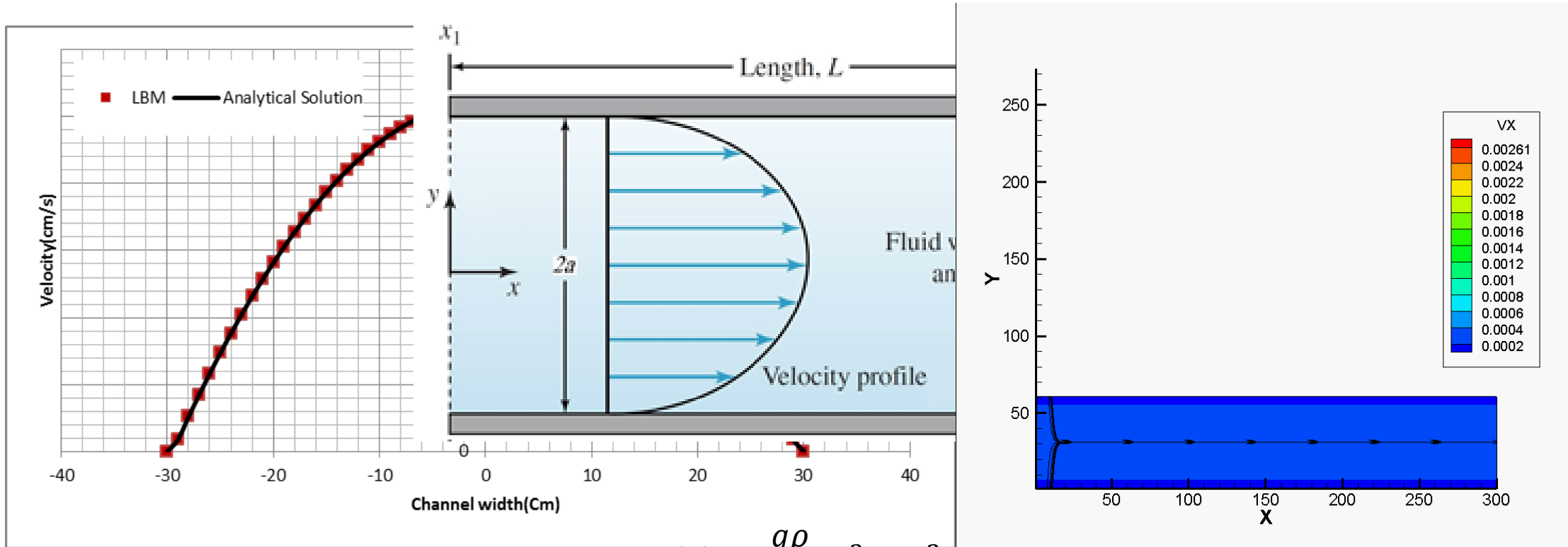
$$f_1(4) = \frac{1}{9} - \frac{\left[\frac{1}{9} - 0.111445 \right]}{1.0} = 0.111445$$

Calculation Example



Numerical Examples

Poiseuille Flow

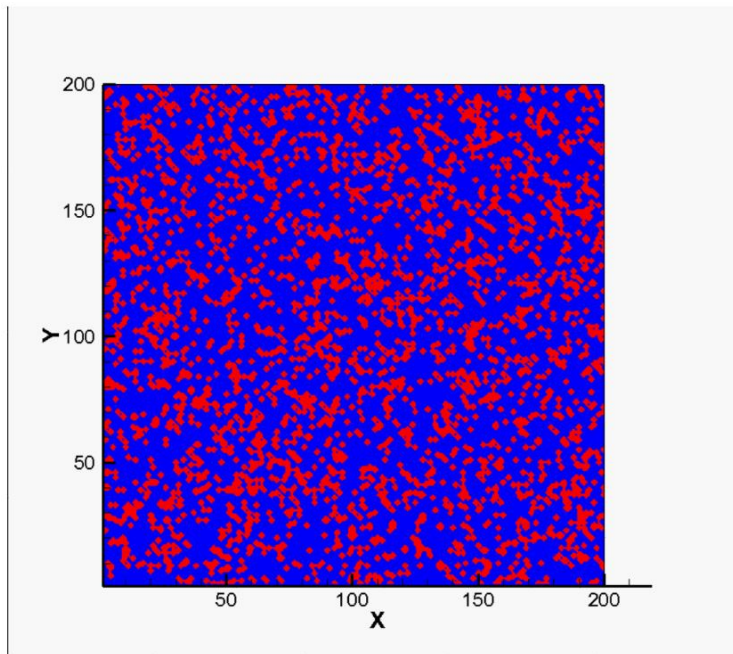


$$u(y) = \frac{g\rho}{2\mu} (a^2 - y^2)$$

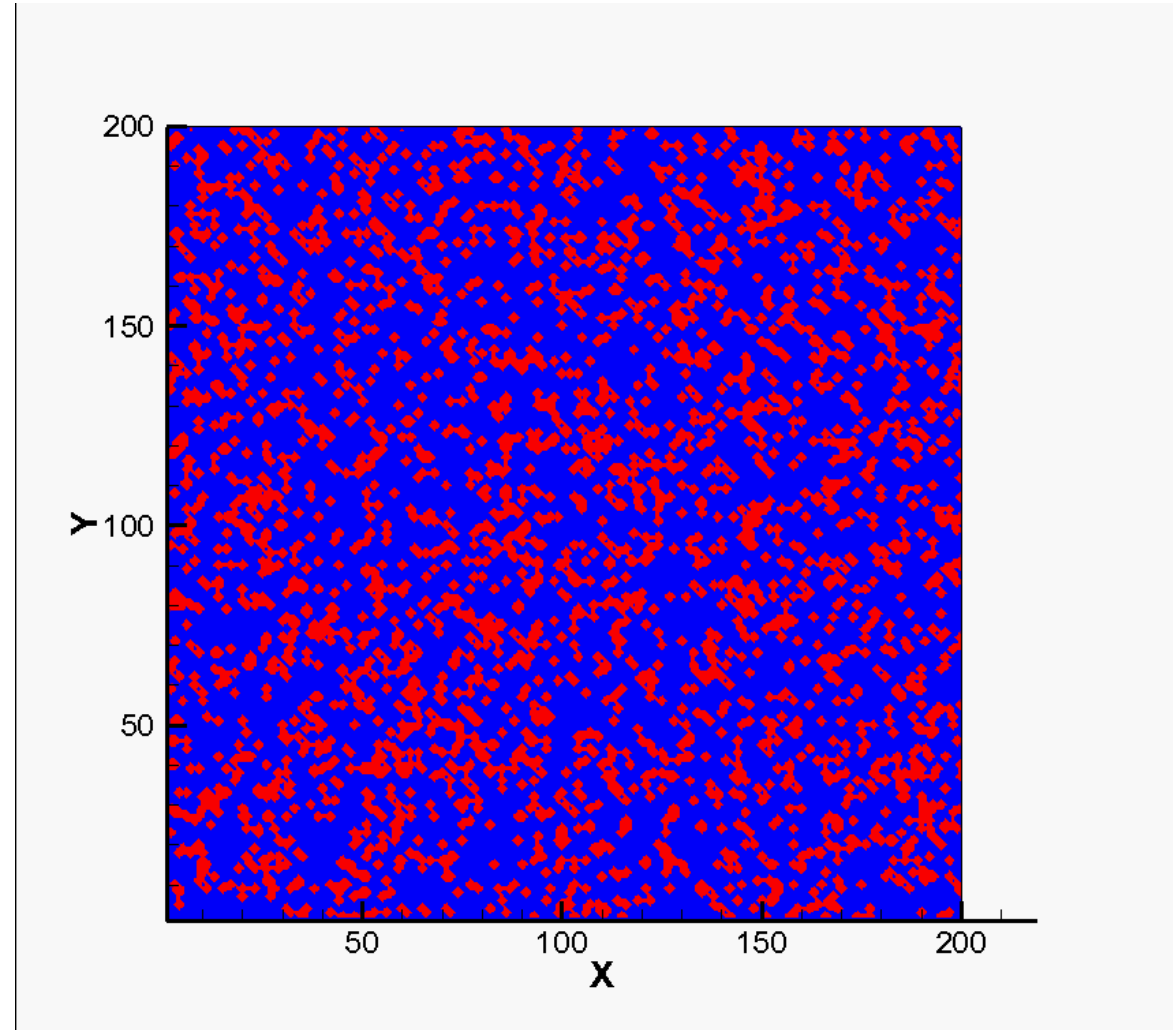
Phase Separation and Laplace Law



Laplace Law $\Delta p = \frac{\sigma}{R}$

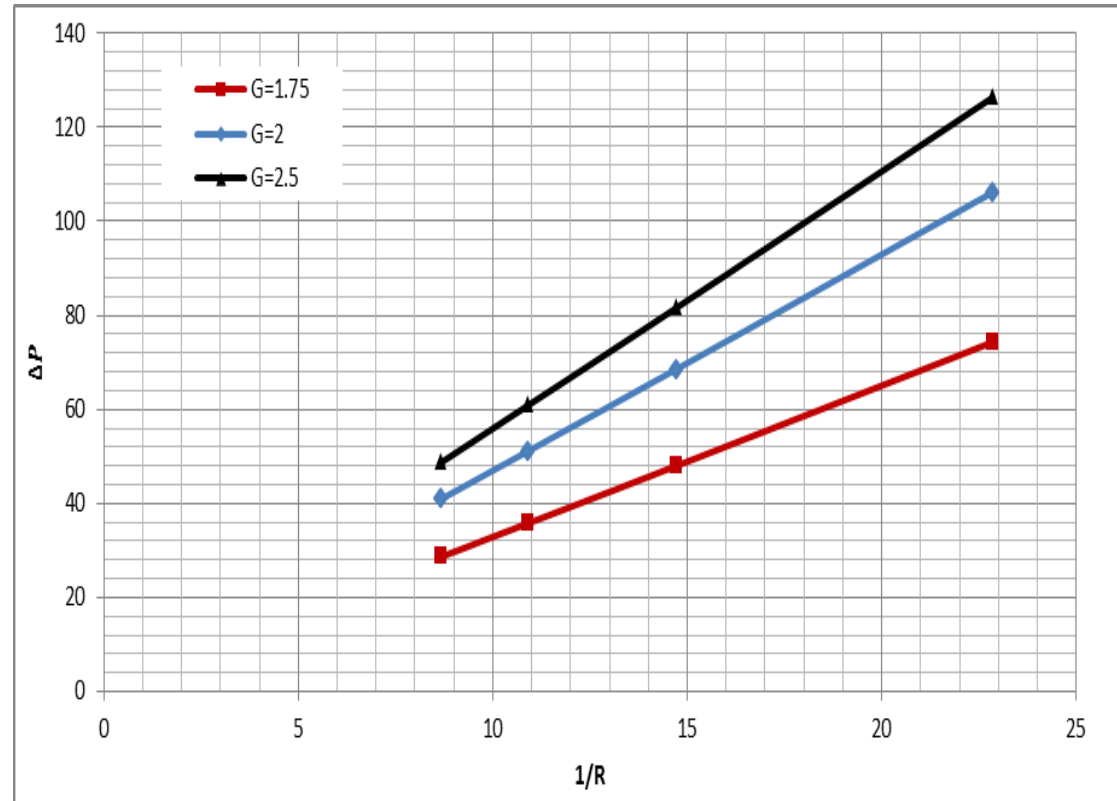


Initial condition



Laplace Law

Laplace Law $\Delta p = \frac{\sigma}{R}$

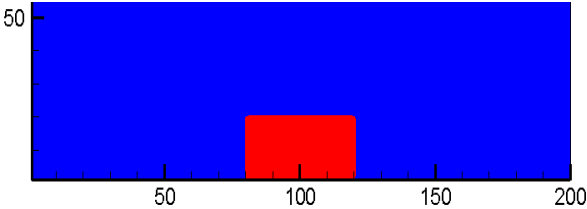
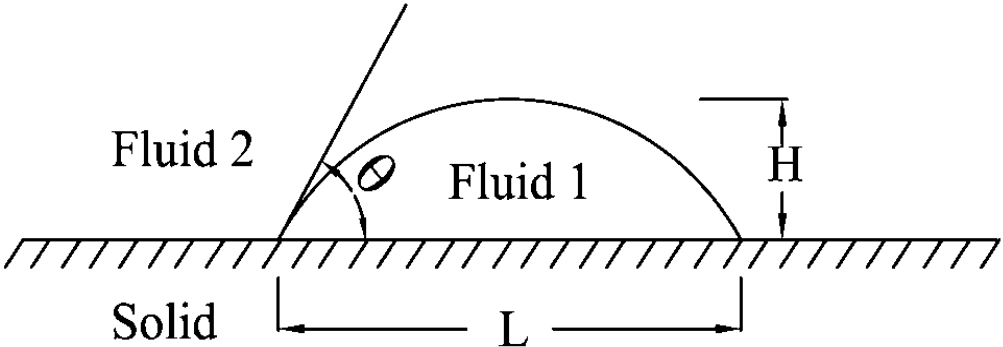


Surface Wettability or Contact Angle

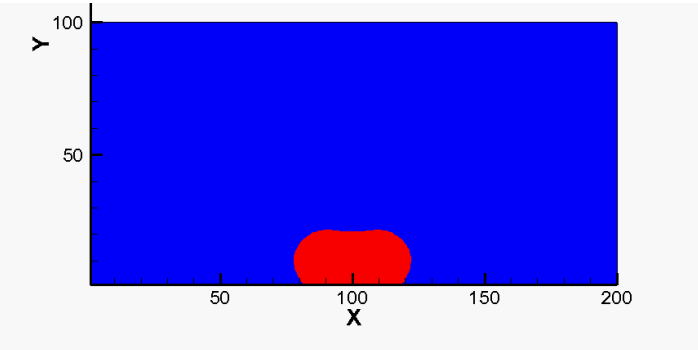
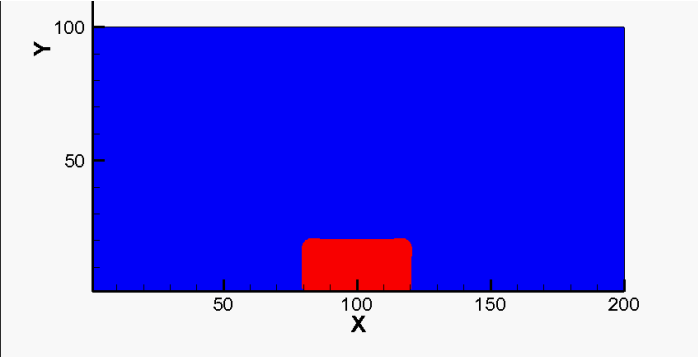
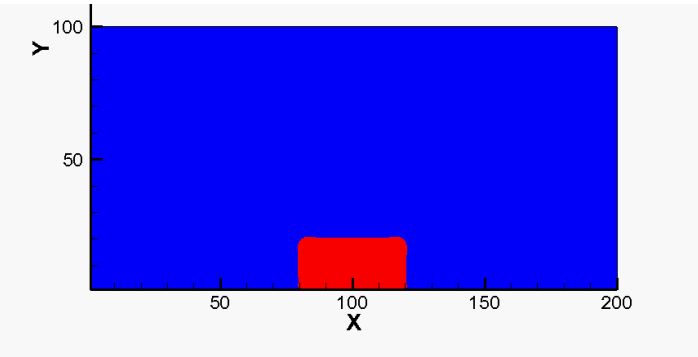
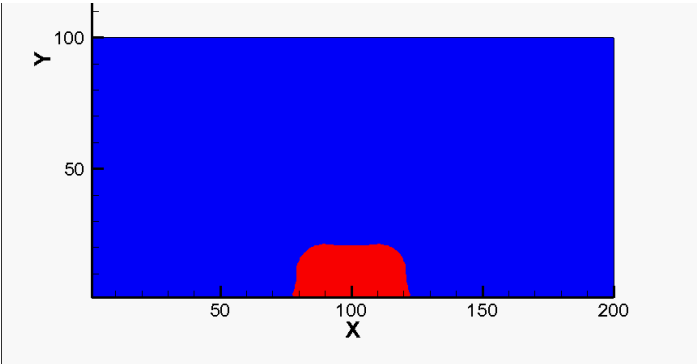
$$R = \frac{(4H^2 + L^2)}{8H}$$

$$\tan\theta = \frac{L}{2(R - H)}$$

Dullien, 1992

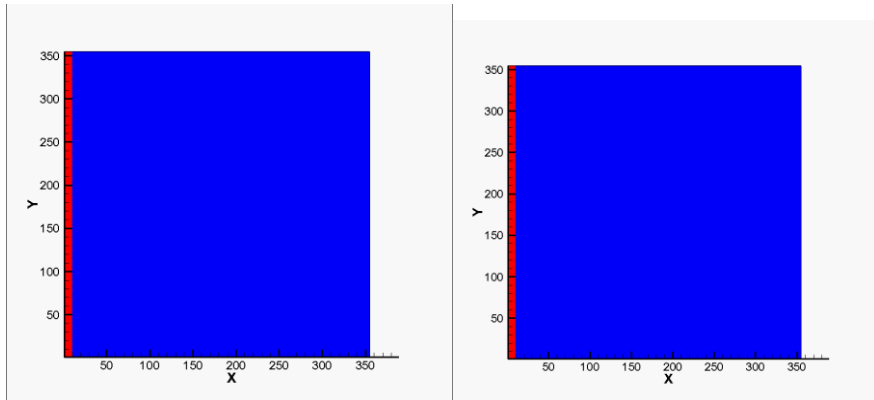


Initial condition

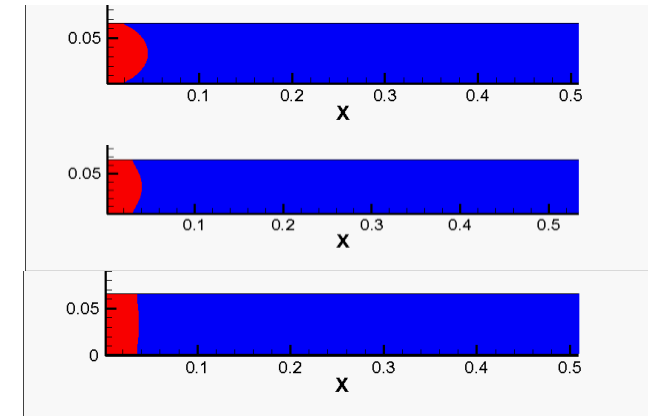


Example Applications

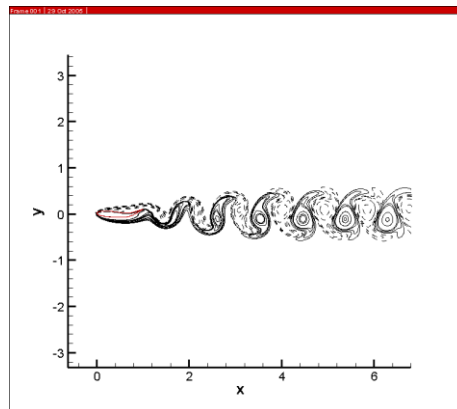
LBM Example Applications



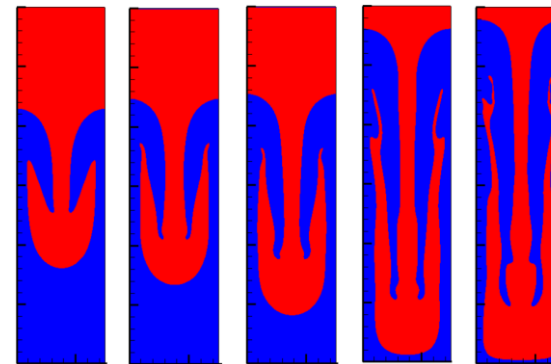
Oil-water displacement in porous media



Fingering phenomenon



Calculating the drag force



Rayleigh-Taylor instability

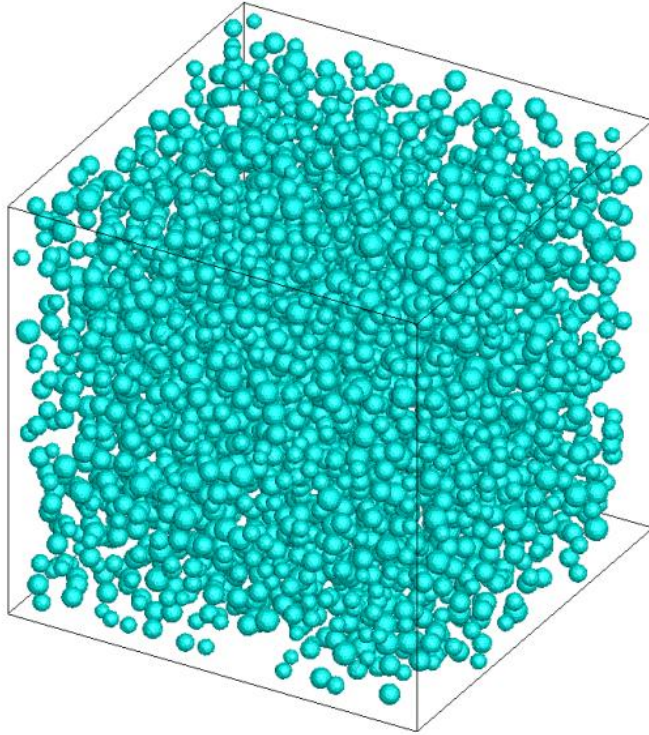
Absolute Permeability of Porous Media

Proposed equations:

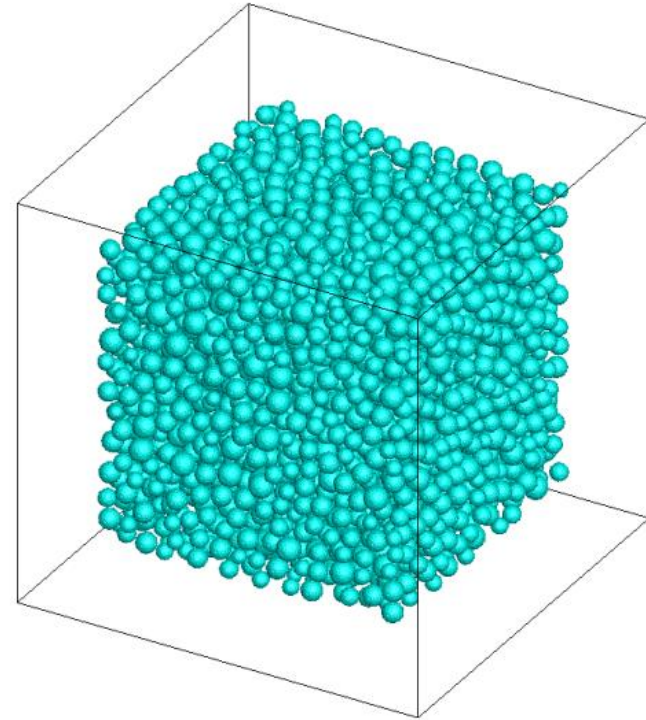
- Kozeny-Carmen, 1956
$$k = \frac{\phi^3}{(1 - \phi)^2} \frac{d_p^2}{180}$$
- Bear and Bachmat, 1990
$$k = \frac{1 - 1.209(1 - \phi)^{2/3}}{60\phi} \frac{\phi^3}{(1 - \phi)^2} d_p^2$$
- Ahmadi et al., 2011
$$k = \frac{1 - 1.209(1 - \phi)^{2/3}}{30[1 - 1.209(1 - \phi)^{2/3} + 2\phi]} \frac{\phi^3}{(1 - \phi)^2} d_p^2$$

Generating Dense Porous Media

Using Discrete Element Method (DEM):

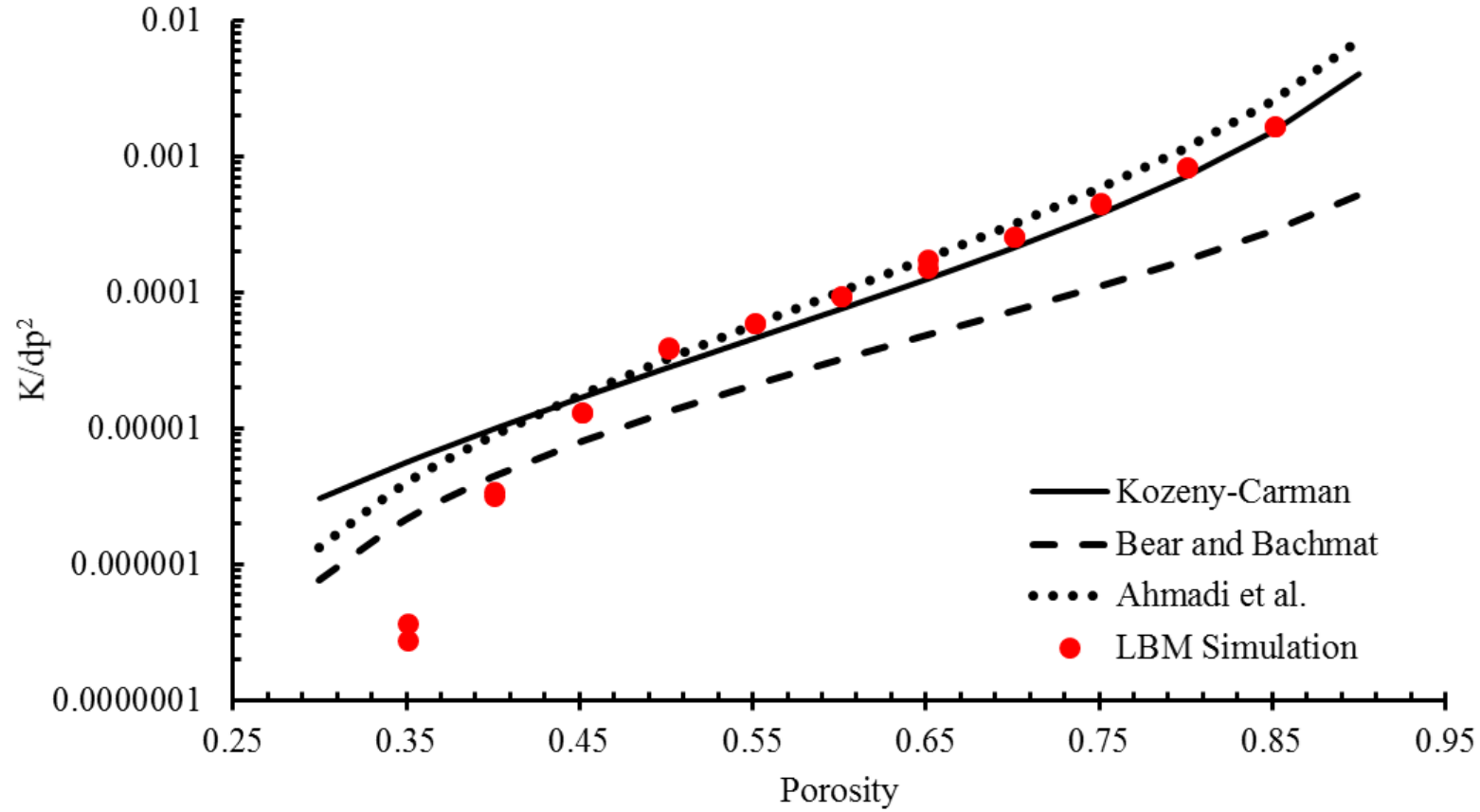


Before isotropic compaction



After isotropic compaction

Absolute Permeability of Porous Media



Thank you!

Additional Applications and Resources

- Books

- Wolf-Gladrow 2000
- Sukop and Thorne 2007
- Wagner 2008
- A.A. Mohammed 2011
- Huang and Sukop 2015

- Software

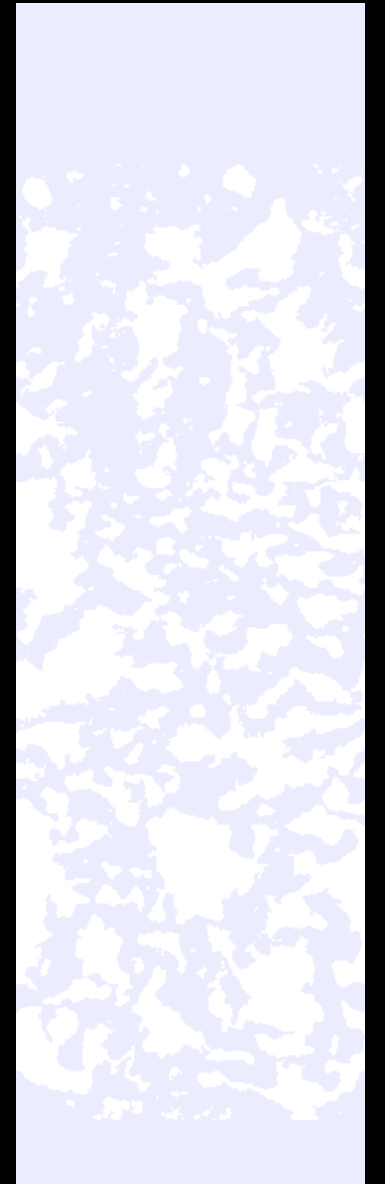
- [Palabos](#) (Open Source)
- [Exa](#)

- Applications

- [Lattice Boltzmann Simulator Video](#)
- [Blood Flow](#)
- [Free Surface Flows](#)

The Lattice Boltzmann Method

Bahman Sheikh and Nirjhor Chakraborty



Claude-Louis Navier



Sir George Stokes

Ludwig Boltzmann

Numerical Microscope for Fluid Mechanics

Microscopic Model

using

Mesoscopic Kinetic Equations

to solve

Macroscopic Fluid Mechanics