



Updates on boundary and initial conditions: How to check for normals

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University of Parma



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Outline

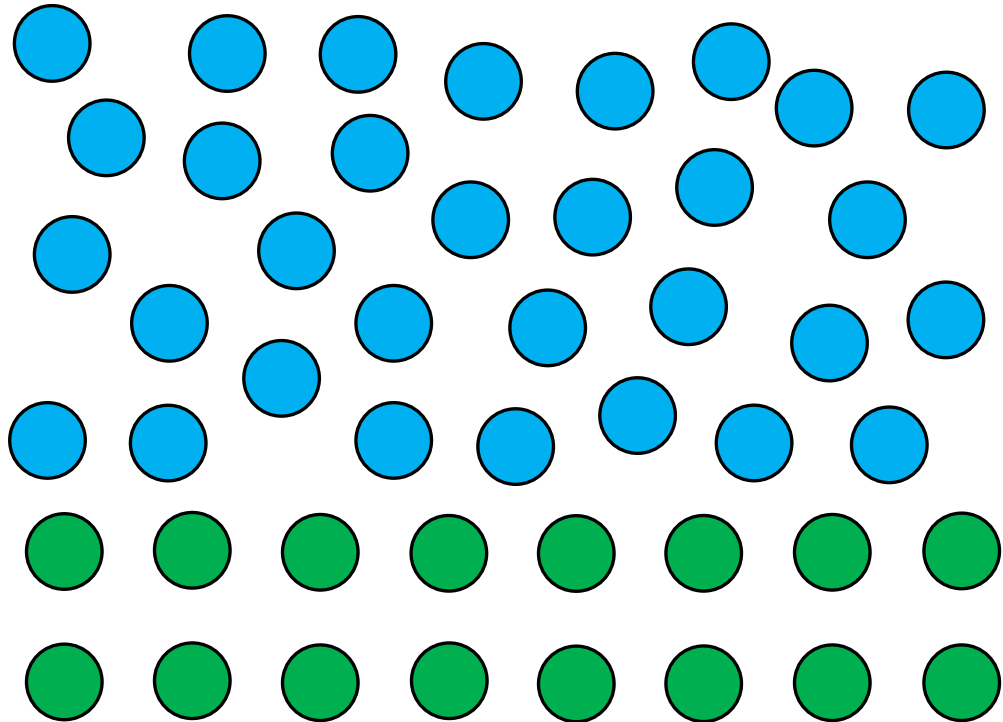
- Boundary Conditions in DualSPHysics – old and **new**
- Mixed boundary conditions by mkbound - **new**
- Defining initial conditions from previous simulations - **new**
- How to define and check your normals - **advice**

Boundary conditions in DSPH

DBC

$$\frac{d\rho_i}{dt} = \sum_j m_j \mathbf{u}_{ij} \cdot \nabla W_{ij}$$

$$\mathbf{u}_i = \mathbf{0}$$

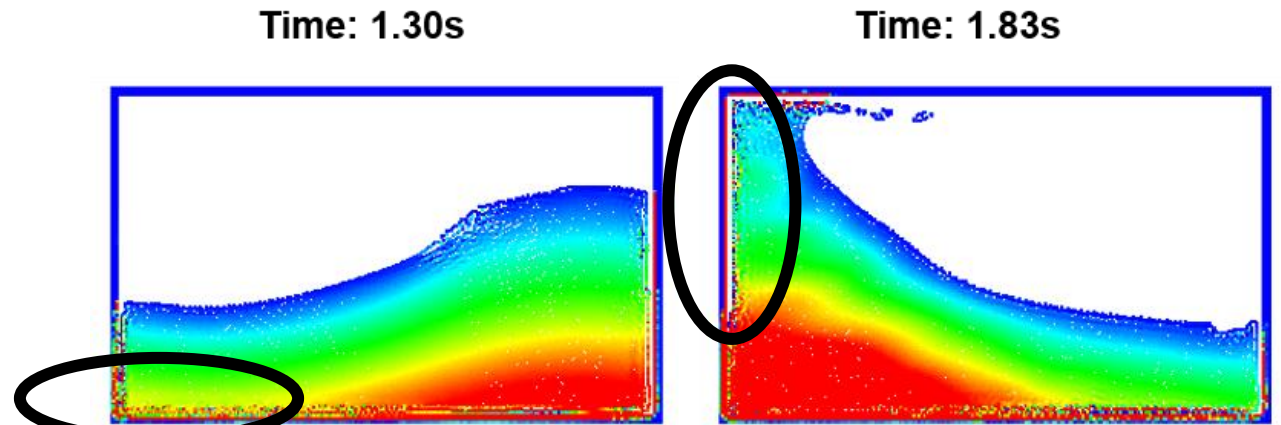


ADVANTAGES

- high computational efficiency
- ability to deal with very complex geometries
- can be used for real engineering problems

DISADVANTAGES

- unphysical density/pressure values of the boundary particles
- high repulsive force resulting in a separation distance (GAP)



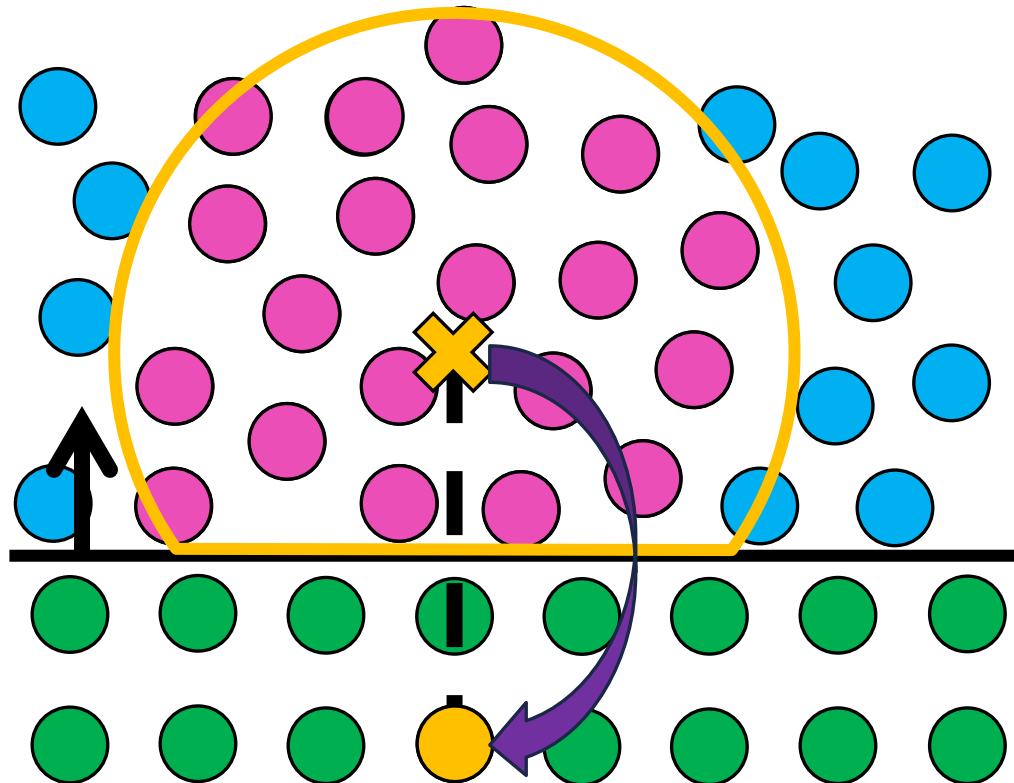
Crespo AJC, Gómez-Gesteira M, Dalrymple RA (2007) Boundary conditions generated by dynamic particles in SPH methods. Comput Mater Contin 5:173–184. <https://doi.org/10.3970/cmc.2007.005.173>

Boundary conditions in DSPH

mDBC slip mode 1 (old mDBC)

Vel = 0 boundary

Use boundary normal to create ghost node in fluid domain



$$\mathbf{u}_b = 0 \quad \mathbf{A}_g \cdot [\rho_g \quad \partial_x \rho_g \quad \partial_y \rho_g \quad \partial_z \rho_g]^T = \mathbf{b}_g$$

$$\mathbf{b}_g = \left[\sum_j \rho_j V_j W_{gj} \quad \sum_j \rho_j V_j \partial_x W_{gj} \quad \sum_j \rho_j V_j \partial_y W_{gj} \quad \sum_j \rho_j V_j \partial_z W_{gj} \right]^T$$

$$\mathbf{A}_g = \begin{bmatrix} \sum_j V_j W_{gj} & \sum_j (x_j - x_g) V_j W_{gj} & \sum_j (y_j - y_g) V_j W_{gj} & \sum_j (z_j - z_g) V_j W_{gj} \\ \sum_j V_j \partial_x W_{gj} & \sum_j (x_j - x_g) V_j \partial_x W_{gj} & \sum_j (y_j - y_g) V_j \partial_x W_{gj} & \sum_j (z_j - z_g) V_j \partial_x W_{gj} \\ \sum_j V_j \partial_y W_{gj} & \sum_j (x_j - x_g) V_j \partial_y W_{gj} & \sum_j (y_j - y_g) V_j \partial_y W_{gj} & \sum_j (z_j - z_g) V_j \partial_y W_{gj} \\ \sum_j V_j \partial_z W_{gj} & \sum_j (x_j - x_g) V_j \partial_z W_{gj} & \sum_j (y_j - y_g) V_j \partial_z W_{gj} & \sum_j (z_j - z_g) V_j \partial_z W_{gj} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\rho_b = \rho_g + (\mathbf{r}_b - \mathbf{r}_g) \cdot [\partial_x \rho_g \quad \partial_y \rho_g \quad \partial_z \rho_g]^T$$

English, A., Domínguez, J.M., Vacondio, R. *et al.* Modified dynamic boundary conditions (mDBC) for general-purpose smoothed particle hydrodynamics (SPH): application to tank sloshing, dam break and fish pass problems. *Comp. Part. Mech.* **9**, 1–15 (2022).
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40571-021-00403-3>

Boundary conditions in DSPH

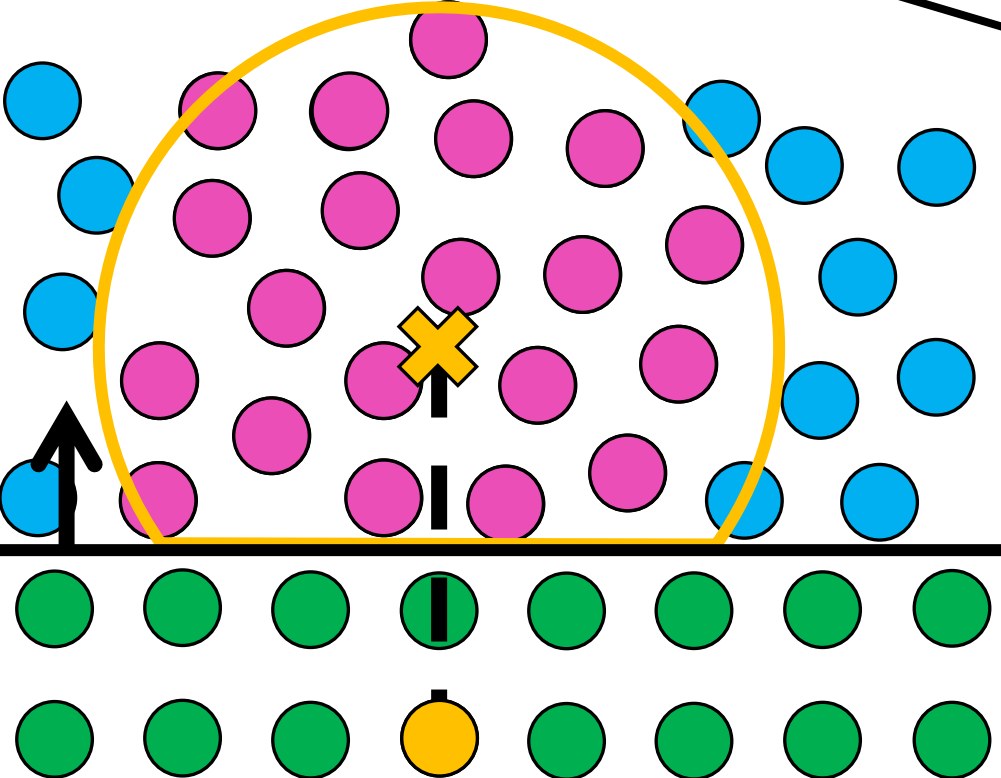
mDBC slip mode 2 (new mDBC)

Matrix inversion

Invert the matrix A_g to find the density $\rightarrow \rho_g$

Shepherd

Use a shepherd sum to find the density $\rightarrow \rho_g$



ρ_g

$$P_g = c_0^2 (\rho_g - \rho_0)$$

$$P_b = P_g + \rho_0 [(\mathbf{g} - \mathbf{a}_b) \cdot \mathbf{n}_b][(\mathbf{x}_g - \mathbf{x}_b) \cdot \mathbf{n}_b]$$

$$\rho_b = \rho_0 + \frac{P_b}{c_0^2}$$

Antuono M., Pilloton C., Colagrossi A., Durante D. Clone particles: A simplified technique to enforce solid boundary conditions in SPH Comput. Methods Appl. Mech. Engrg., 409 (2023), Article 115973

Boundary conditions in DSPH

mDBC slip mode 2 (new mDBC)

$$\mathbf{u}_g = \frac{\sum_j \mathbf{u}_j V_j W_{gj}}{\sum_j V_j W_{gj}}$$

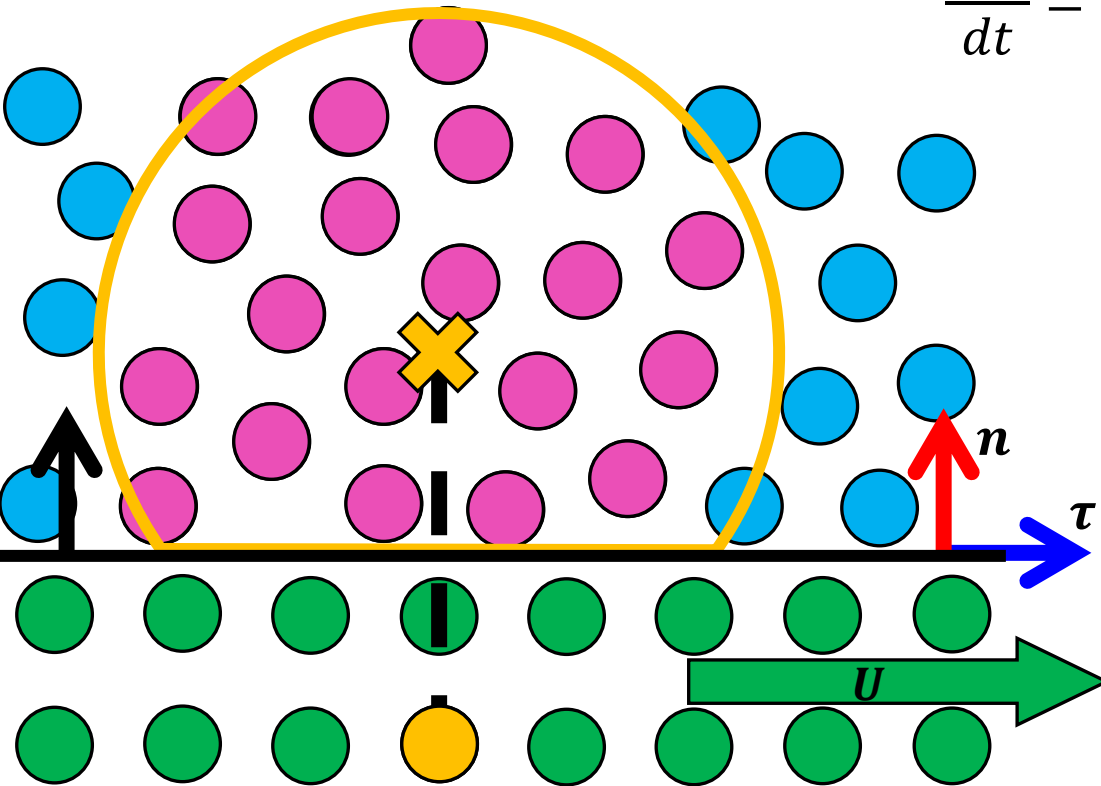
$$\mathbf{u}_b = 2\mathbf{U} - \mathbf{u}_g$$

No-slip boundary

$$\frac{d\mathbf{u}_i}{dt} = - \sum_j m_j \left(\frac{P_i + P_j}{\rho_i \rho_j} \right) \nabla W_{ij} + \sum_j \frac{4\nu m_j \mathbf{r}_{ij} \cdot \nabla W_{ij}}{(\rho_i + \rho_j) (\mathbf{r}_{ij}^2 + 0.01h^2)} \mathbf{u}_{ij} + \mathbf{g}_i$$

$$\mathbf{u}_b \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau} = (2\mathbf{U} - \mathbf{u}_g) - ((2\mathbf{U} - \mathbf{u}_g) \cdot \mathbf{n})$$
~~$$\mathbf{u}_b \cdot \mathbf{n} = (2\mathbf{U} - \mathbf{u}_g) \cdot \mathbf{n}$$~~

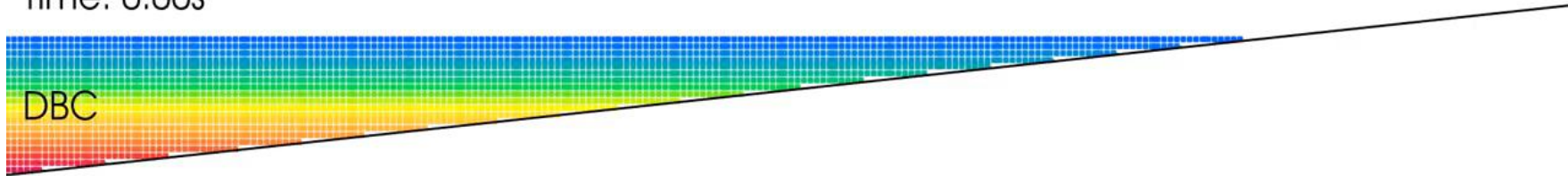
$$\frac{d\rho_i}{dt} = \rho_i \sum_j \frac{m_j}{\rho_j} \mathbf{u}_{ij} \cdot \nabla W_{ij} + DDT$$



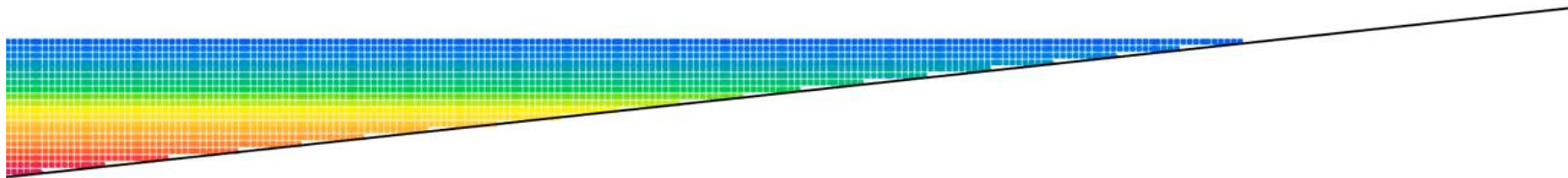
Boundary conditions in DSPH

mDBC slip mode 2

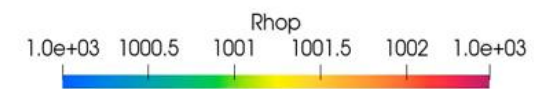
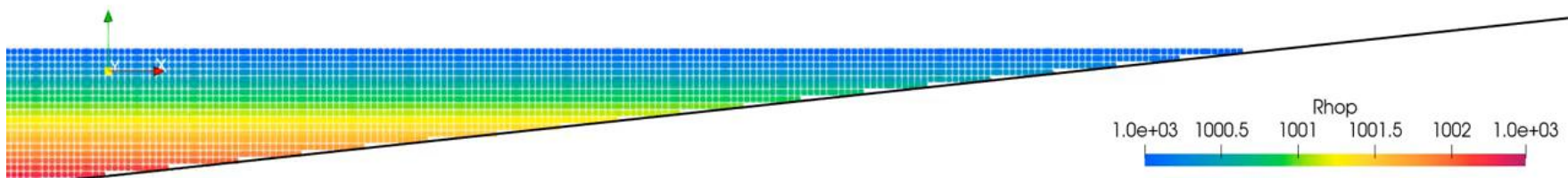
Time: 0.00s



mDBC SlipMode:1 Vel=0



mDBC SlipMode:2 No-Slip



Boundary conditions in DSPH

mDBC slip mode 3 (NEW)

Free slip boundary

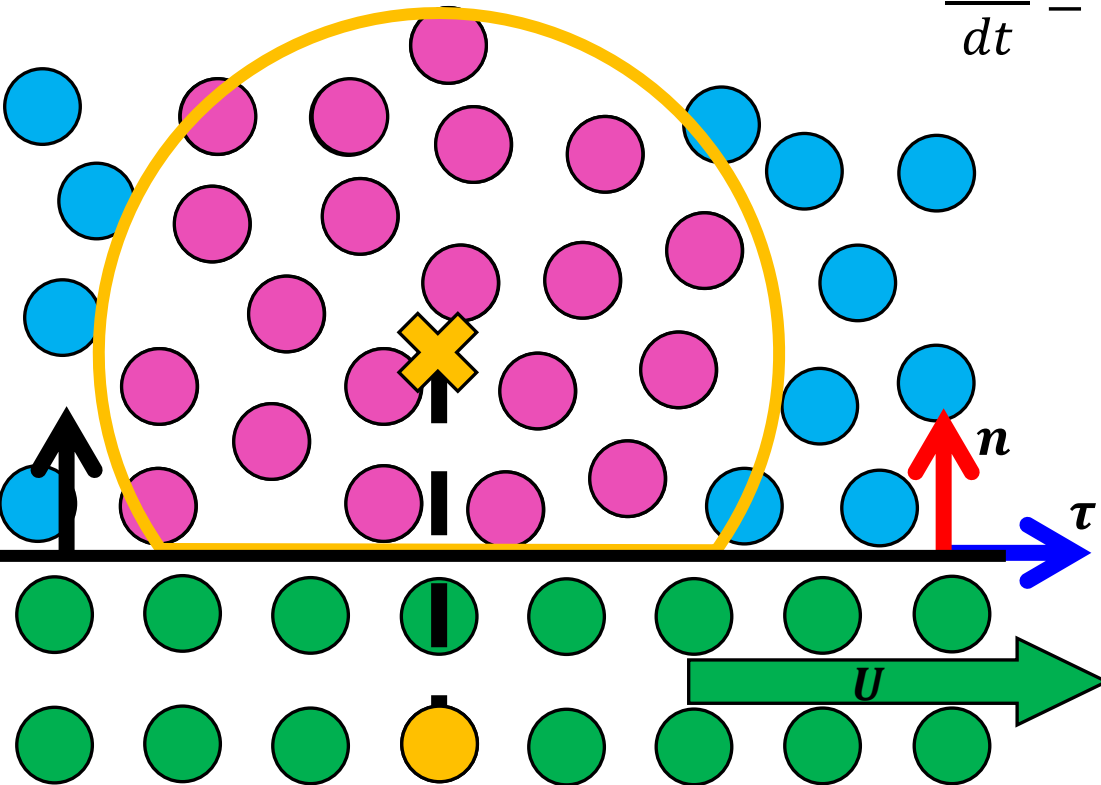
$$\mathbf{u}_g = \frac{\sum_j \mathbf{u}_j V_j W_{gj}}{\sum_j V_j W_{gj}}$$

$$\mathbf{u}_b = \mathbf{u}_g$$

$$\frac{d\mathbf{u}_i}{dt} = - \sum_j m_j \left(\frac{P_i + P_j}{\rho_i \rho_j} \right) \nabla W_{ij} + \sum_j \frac{4\nu m_j \mathbf{r}_{ij} \cdot \nabla W_{ij}}{(\rho_i + \rho_j) (\mathbf{r}_{ij}^2 + 0.01h^2)} \mathbf{u}_{ij} + \mathbf{g}_i$$

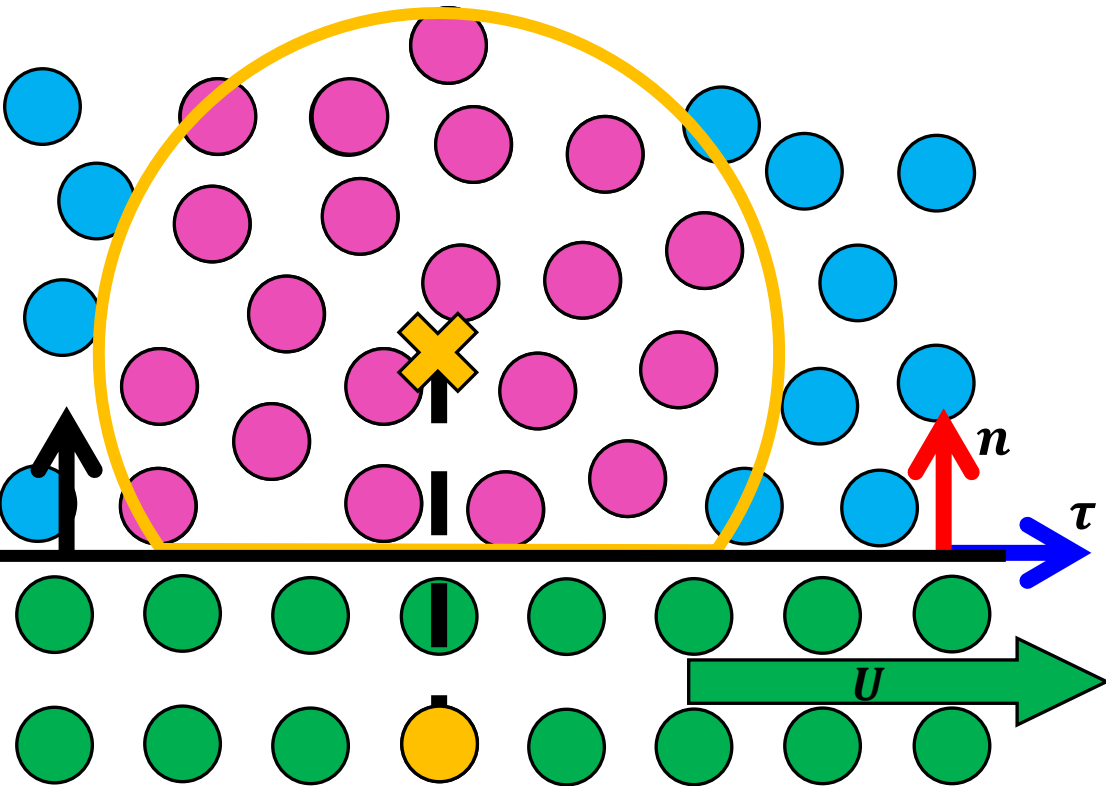
$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{u}_b \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau} &= (\mathbf{u}_g) - ((\mathbf{u}_g) \cdot \mathbf{n}) \\ \mathbf{u}_b \cdot \mathbf{n} &= (\mathbf{u}_g) \cdot \mathbf{n} \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{d\rho_i}{dt} = \rho_i \sum_j \frac{m_j}{\rho_j} \mathbf{u}_{ij} \cdot \nabla W_{ij} + DDT$$



Boundary conditions in DSPH

mDBC slip mode 11 (NEW)



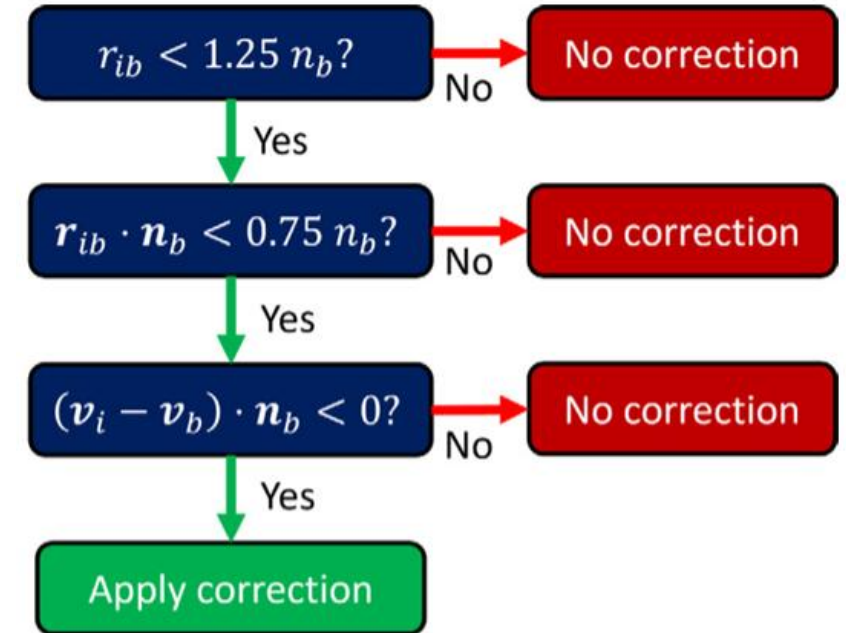
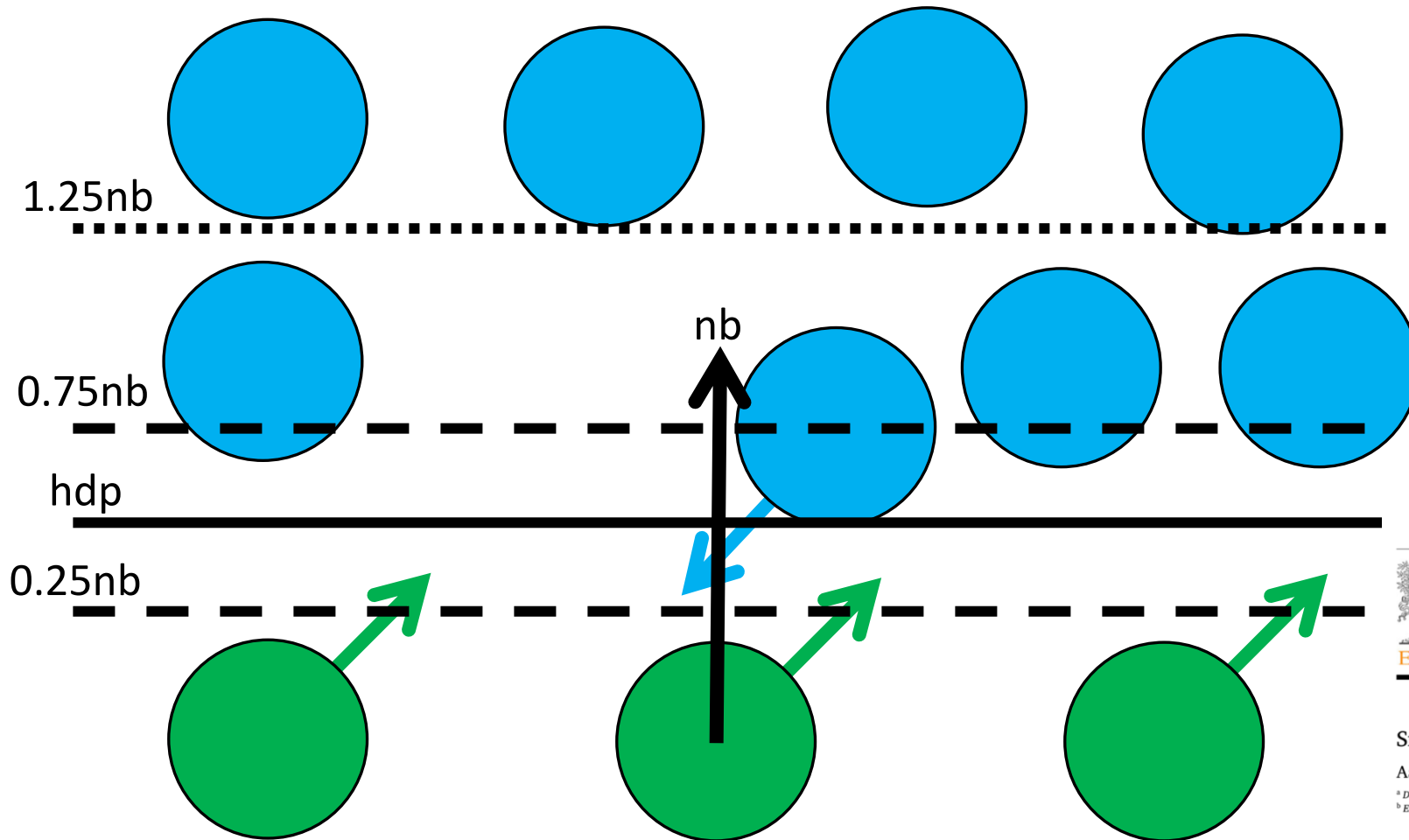
$$\cancel{u_g = \frac{\sum_j u_j V_j W_{gj}}{\sum_j V_j W_{gj}}} \quad u_b = 0$$

TanVel = 0 boundary

The same as slip mode 1 but with the new density correction

Boundary conditions in DSPH

mDBC no-penetration (NEW)



Computers and Fluids 303 (2025) 106870



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Smoothed particle hydrodynamics modelling of river flows past bridges

Aaron English^a, Renato Vacondio^a, Susanna Dazzi^a, José M. Domínguez^b

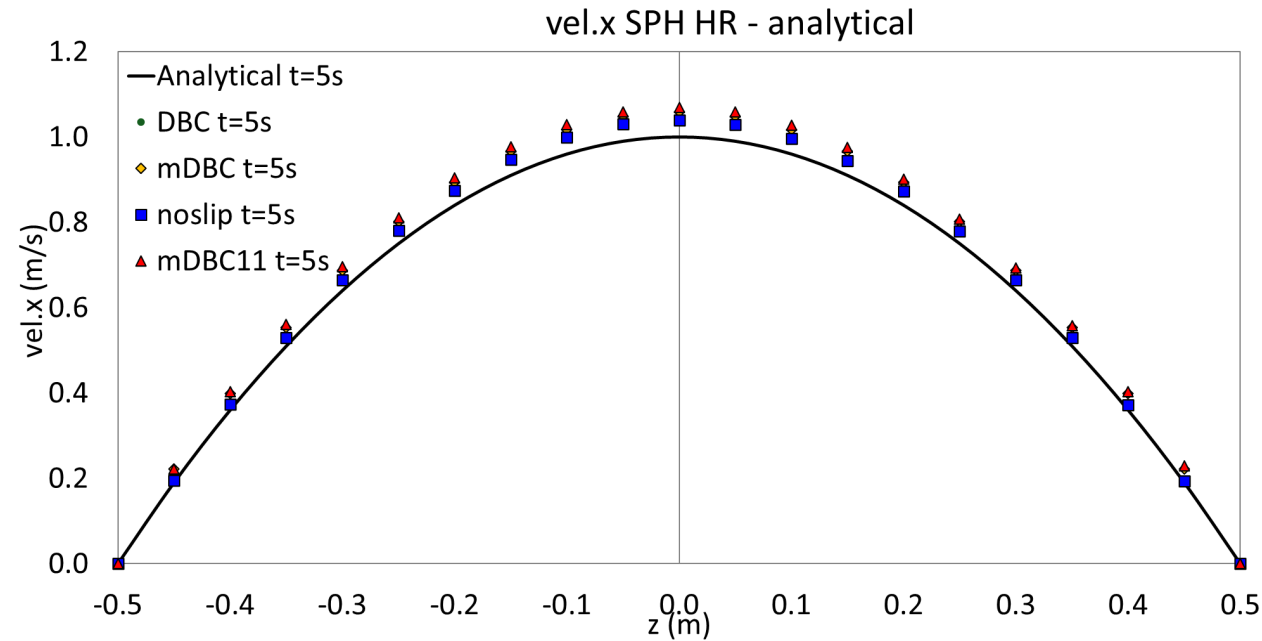
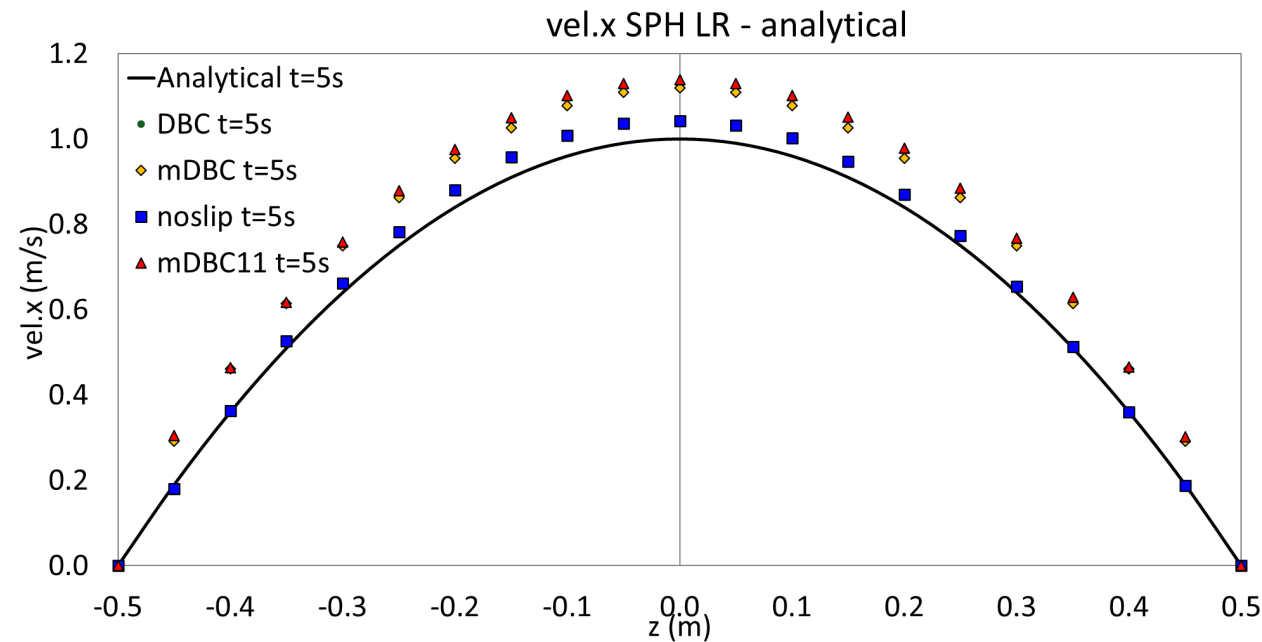
^a Department of Engineering and Architecture, Università degli Studi di Parma, Parma, Italy

^b Environmental Physics Laboratory, CIM-UVIGO, Universidade de Vigo, Vigo, Spain

Boundary conditions in DSPH

What is the difference between slip modes?

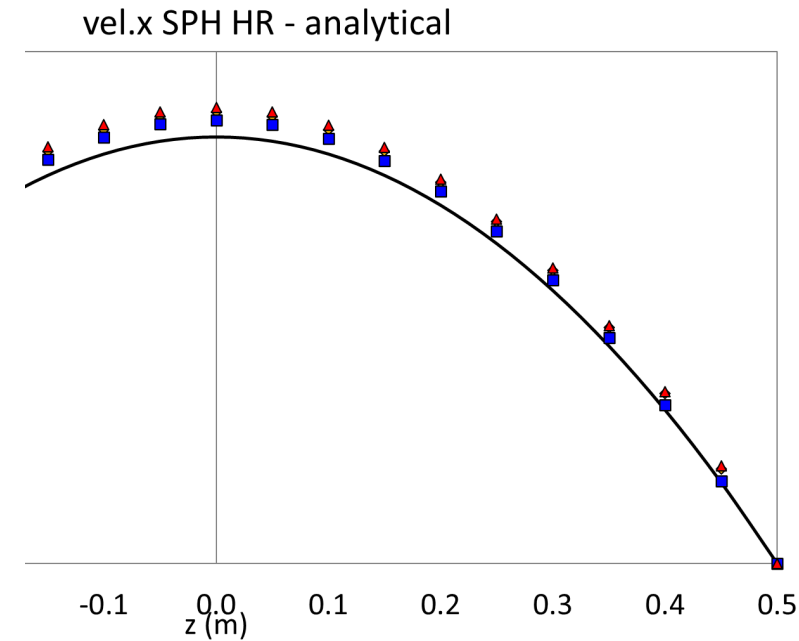
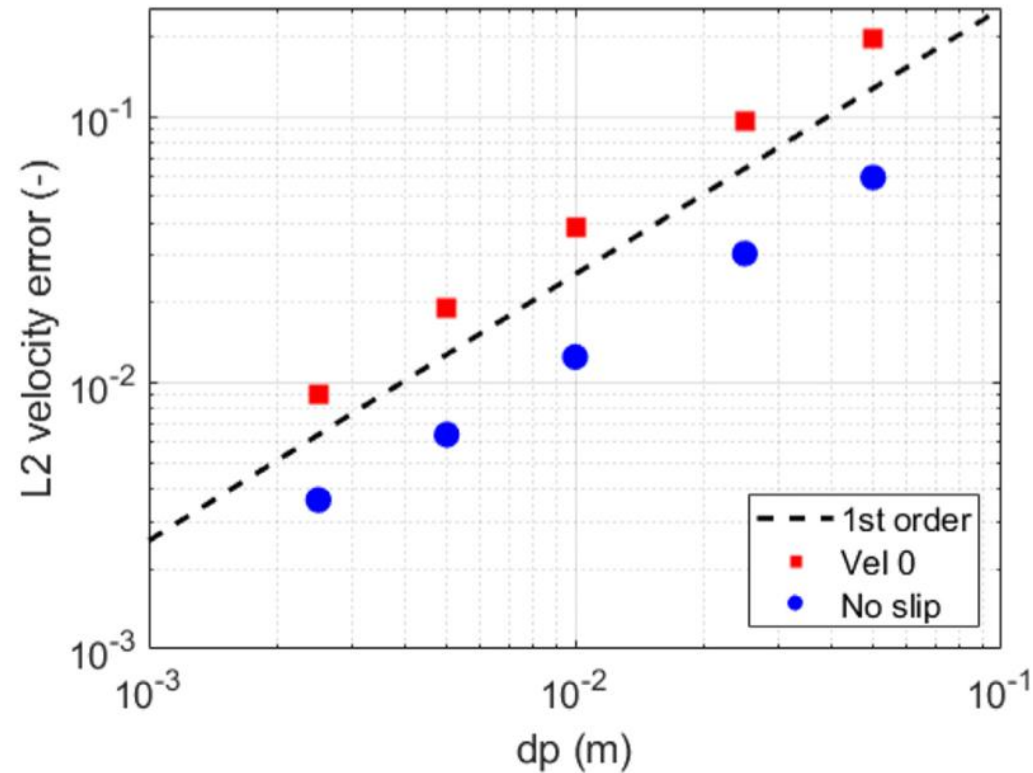
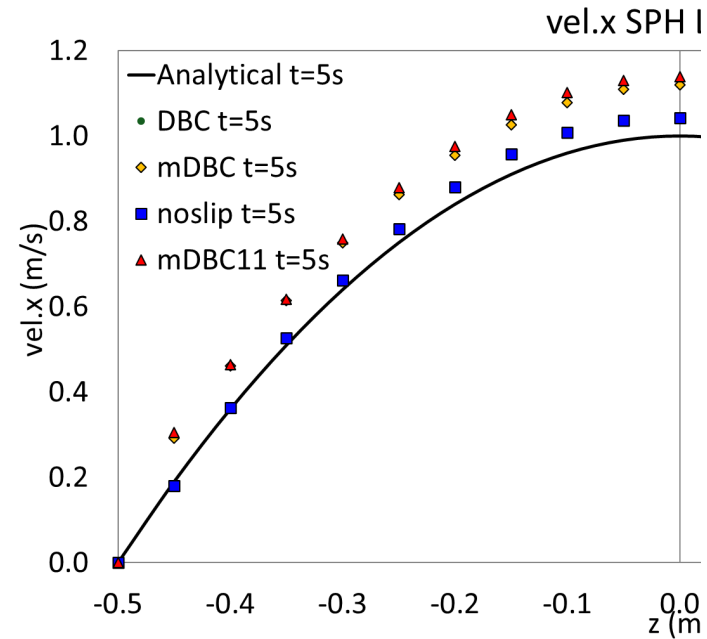
```
<parameter key="Boundary" value="3" comment="Boundary method 1:DBC, 2:mDBC, 3:MixBC (default=1)" />
<parameter key="SlipMode" value="2" comment="Slip mode for mDBC 1:Old-mDBC vel=0, 11:TanVel=0, 2:No-slip, 3:Free slip (default=1)" />
<parameter key="NoPenetration" value="1" comment="Activate No-Penetration option for TanVel=0, No-slip or Free-slip mDBC 0:Off, 1:On (default=0)" />
```



Boundary conditions in DSPH

What is the difference between slip modes?

```
<parameter key="Boundary" value="3" comment="Boundary method 1:DBC, 2:mDBC, 3:MixBC (default=1)" />
<parameter key="SlipMode" value="2" comment="Slip mode for mDBC 1:Old-mDBC vel=0, 11:TanVel=0, 2:No-slip, 3:Free slip (default=1)" />
<parameter key="NoPenetration" value="1" comment="Activate No-Penetration option for TanVel=0, No-slip or Free-slip mDBC 0:Off, 1:On (default=0)" />
```



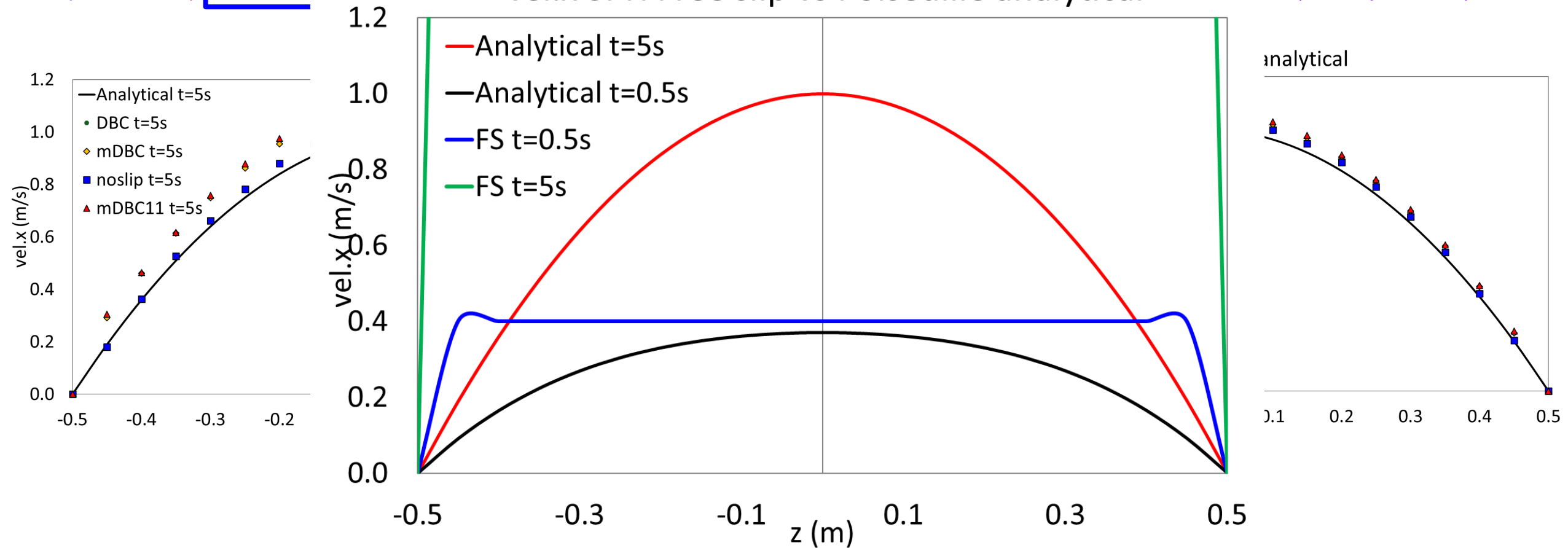
Boundary conditions in DSPH

What is the difference between slip modes?

```
<parameter key="Boundary"  
<parameter key="SlipMode"  
<parameter key="NoPenetrat
```

vel.x SPH Free slip vs Poiseuille analytical

```
ult=1)" />  
Off, 1:On (default=0)" />
```



Mixed boundary conditions (NEW)

What about boundary option 3?

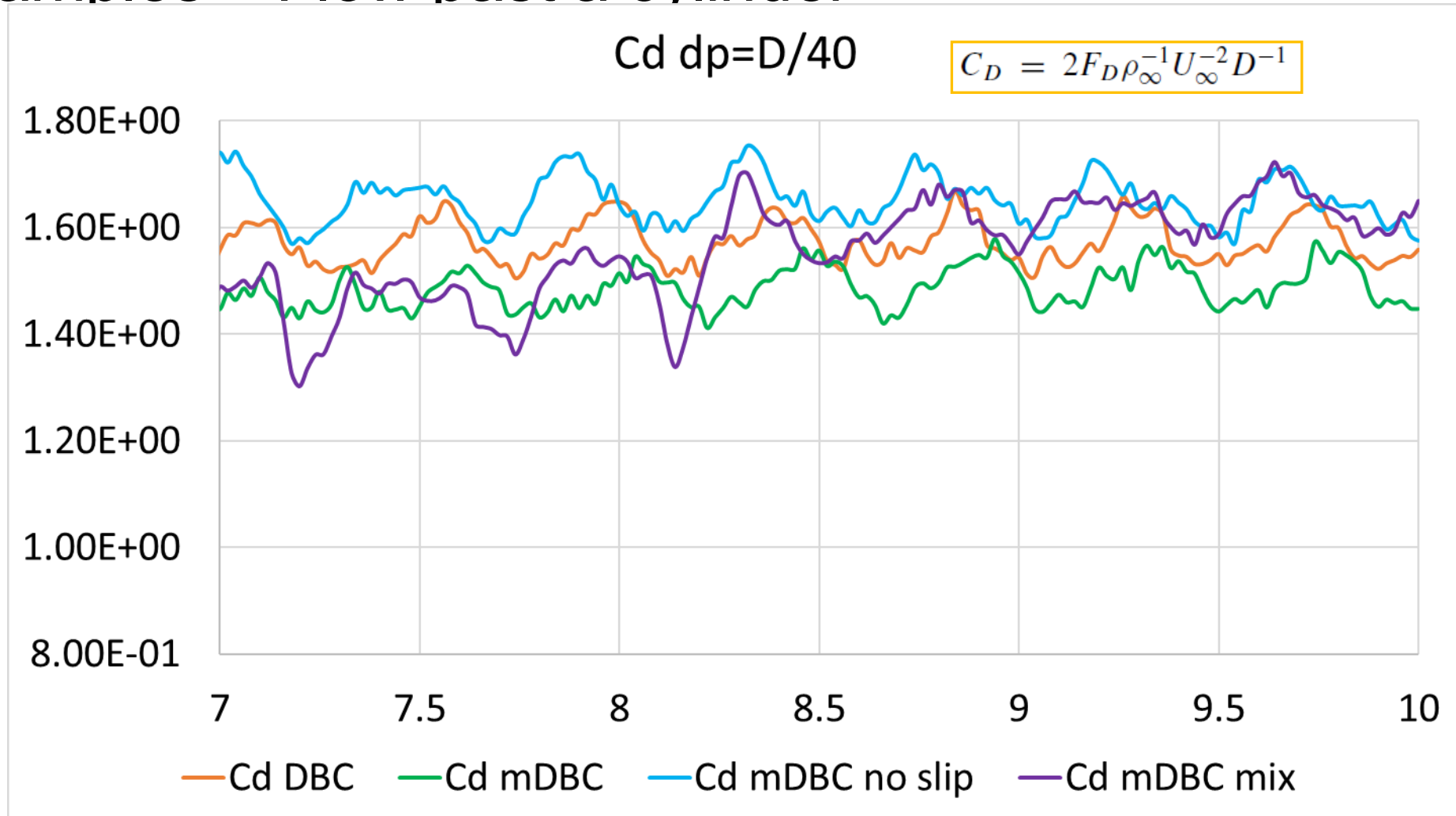
```
<parameter key="Boundary" value="3" comment="Boundary method 1:DBC, 2:mDBC, 3:MixBC (default=1)" />
<parameter key="SlipMode" value="2" comment="Slip mode for mDBC 1:Old-mDBC vel=0, 11:TanVel=0, 2:No-slip, 3:Free slip (default=1)" />
<parameter key="NoPenetration" value="1" comment="Activate No-Penetration option for TanVel=0, No-slip or Free-slip mDBC 0:Off, 1:On (default=0)" />

<execution>
  <special>
    <mixboundary>
      <!-- boundtype: DBC, MDBC_V0 (Old mDBC), MDBC_T0 (mDBC2 tanvel=0), MDBC_NS (mDBC2 No-slip), MDBC_FR (mDBC2 Free slip) -->
      <!-- nopenetration: 1/0 Activate No-Penetration option for TanVel=0, No-slip or Free-slip mDBC -->
      <!-- mkbound: mkbound value or list of values (2,5,7-8) -->
      <default boundtype="MDBC_NS" nopenetration="0" />
      <bcmk mkbound="0" boundtype="MDBC_NS" nopenetration="1" />
      <bcmk mkbound="1,2" boundtype="MDBC_FR" nopenetration="1" />
      <bcmk mkbound="3-5" boundtype="MDBC_T0" nopenetration="1" />
      <bcmk mkbound="6,7,9" boundtype="DBC" nopenetration="0" />
      <bcmk mkbound="8" boundtype="MDBC_V0" nopenetration="0" />
      <bcmk mkbound="10" boundtype="MDBC_NS" nopenetration="0" />
      <bcmk mkbound="11-12" boundtype="MDBC_FR" nopenetration="0" />
    </mixboundary>
  </special>
</execution>
```

Still need to define normals for all boundaries even DBC bounds

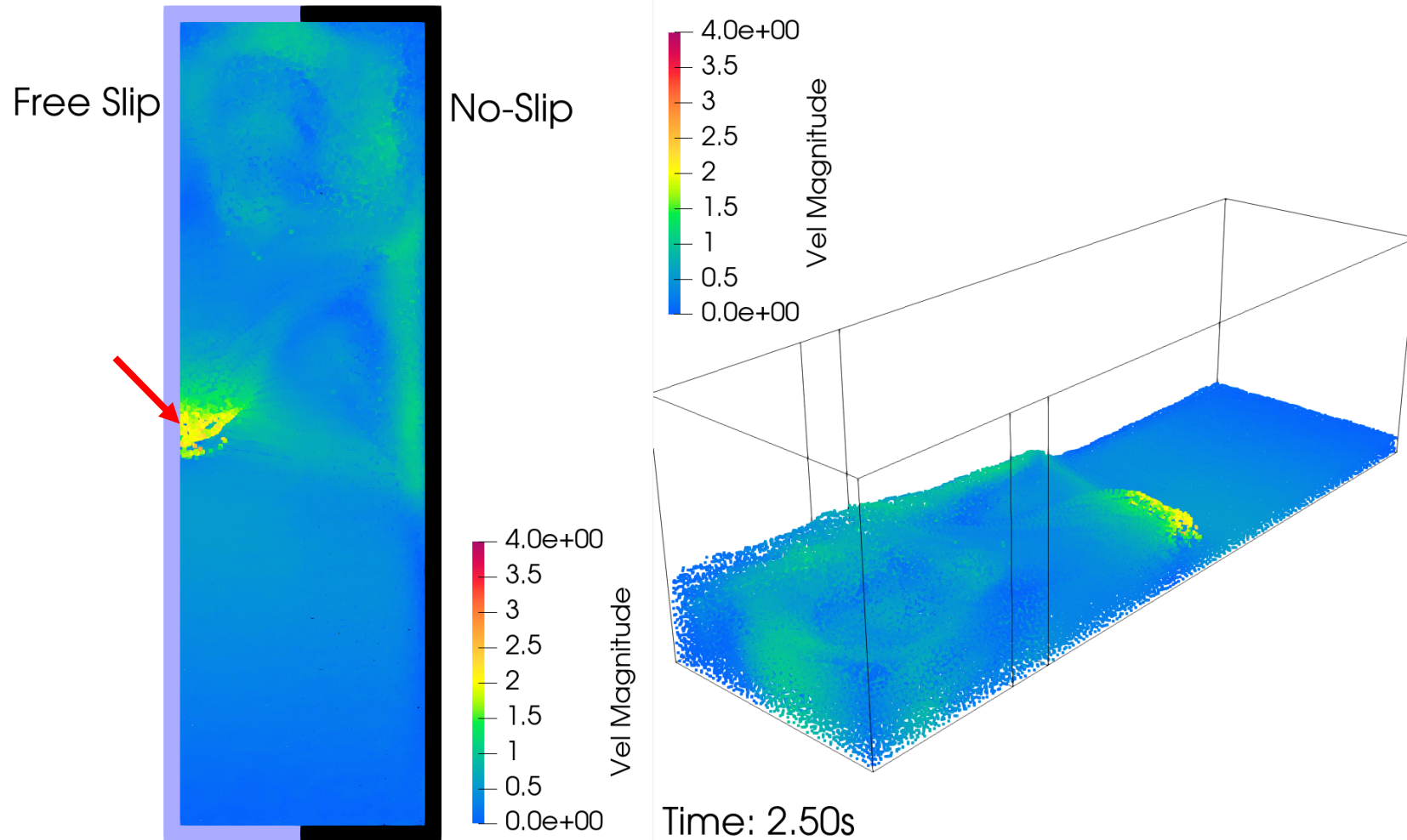
Mixed boundary conditions

Examples – Flow past a cylinder



Mixed boundary conditions

Examples – 3D dambreak



Mixed boundary conditions

Examples – waves on a beach with an obstacle

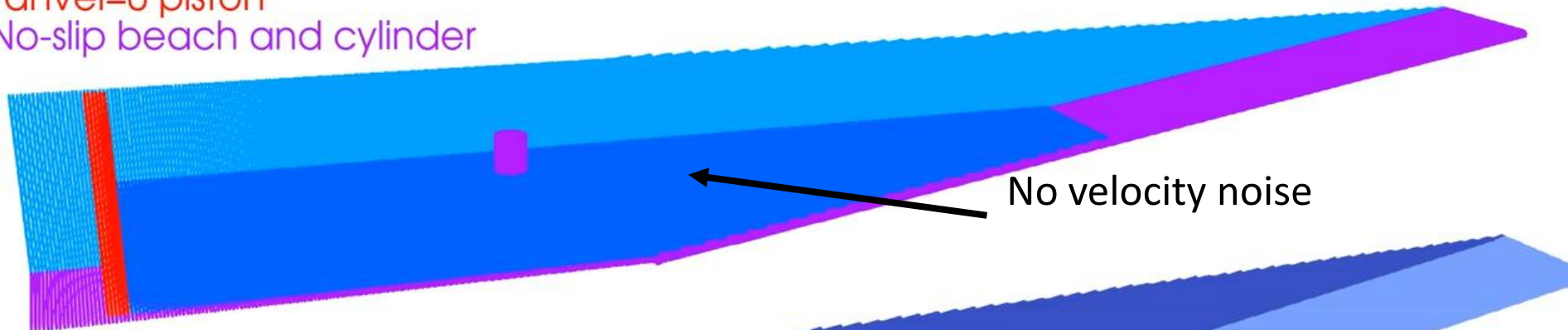
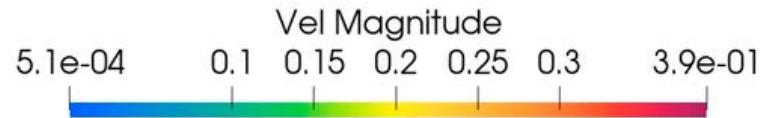
Time: 0.00s

Mixed boundaries

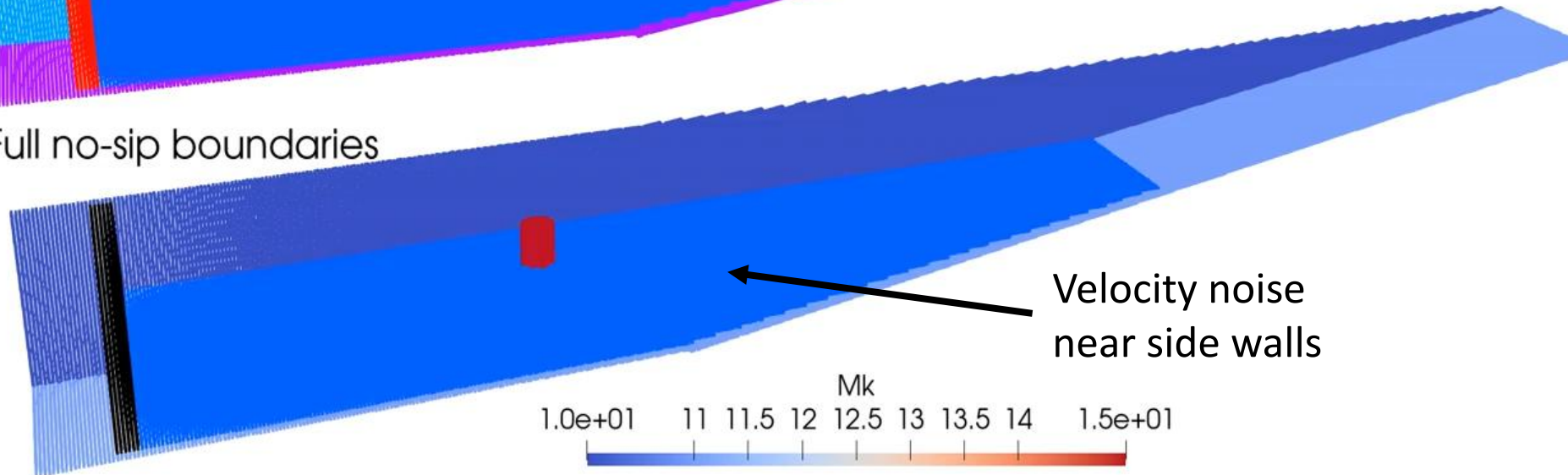
Free slip side walls

Tanvel=0 piston

No-slip beach and cylinder



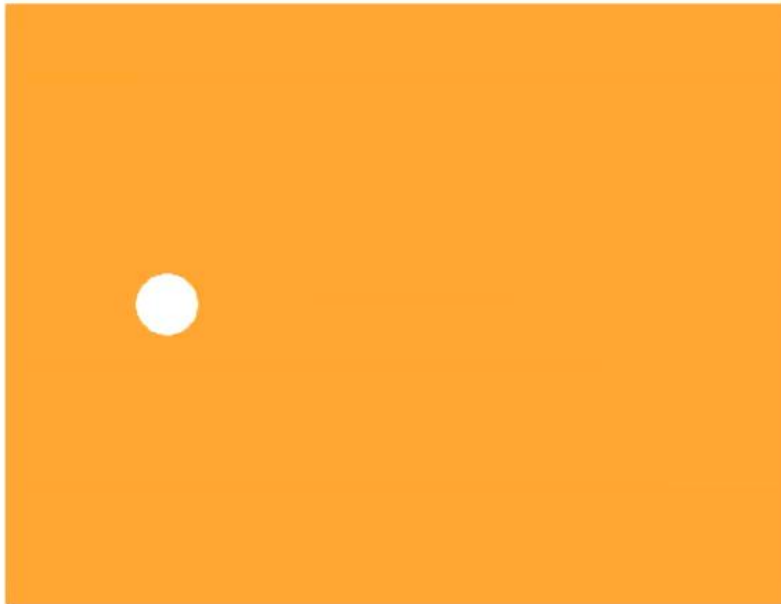
Full no-sip boundaries



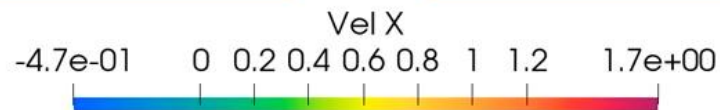
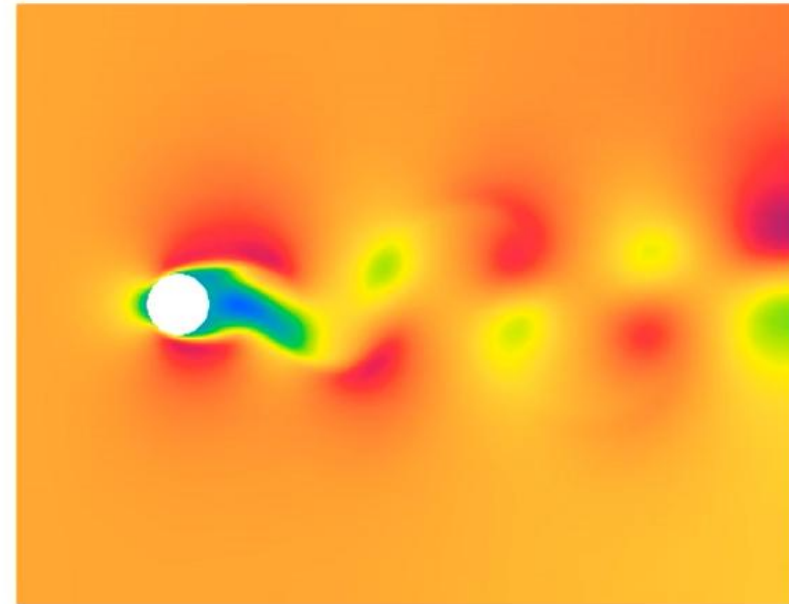
Defining initial conditions from previous simulations (NEW)

Time: 0.00s

Initial simulation from rest

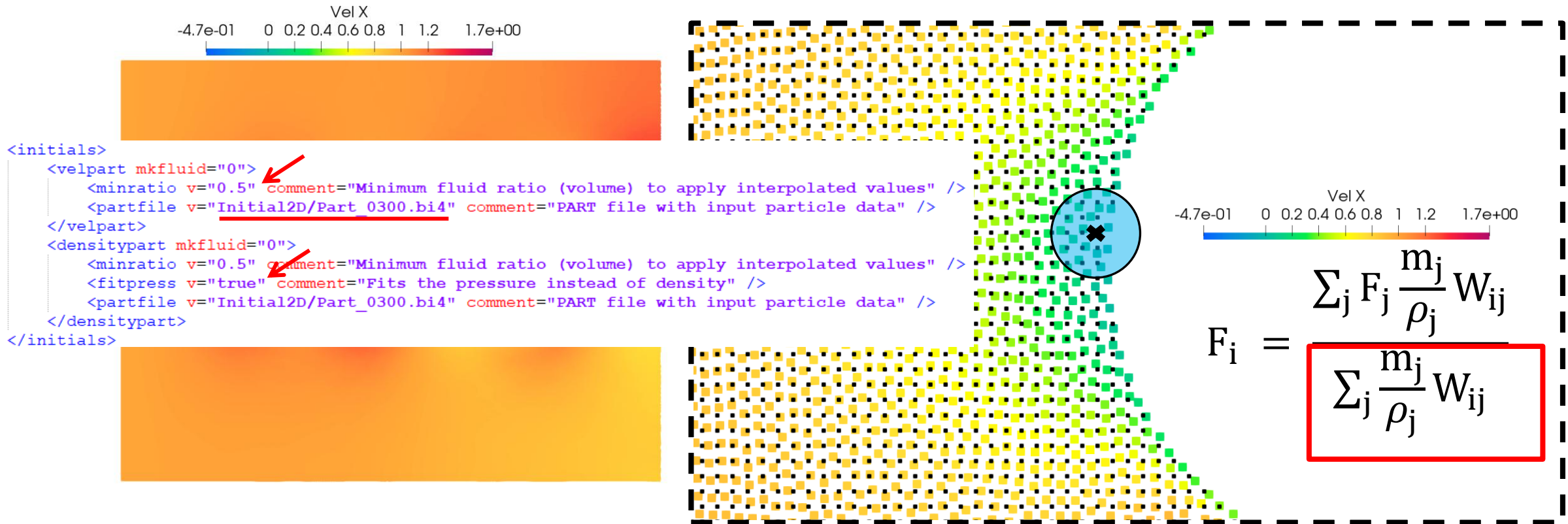


New simulation with final step initial condition



Takes a long time to reach steady state and even longer for higher resolution

Defining initial conditions from previous simulations – set properties



Can initialise fluid density, pressure, velocity and surface elevation

Defining initial conditions from previous simulations – set free surface

```
<!-- Water up stream -->  
<setmkfluid mk="0" />  
<setboxlimitmode mode="full" />  
<fillbox x="-0.1" y="0.25" z="0.005">  
  <modefill>void</modefill>  
  <point x="-1.475" y="0.0025" z="0.0" />  
  <size x="3.4" y="0.495" z="0.15" />  
</fillbox>
```

} Creates fillbox to fill domain with fluid particles

New initial condition



Previous final free surface profile



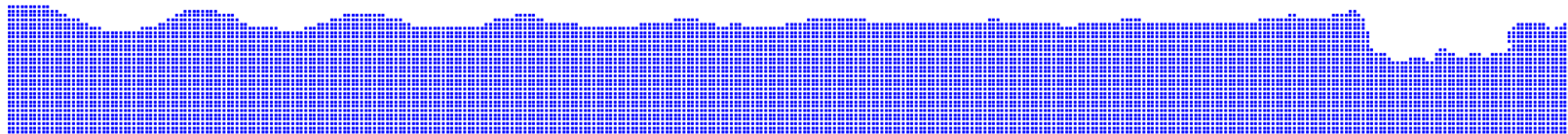
Defining initial conditions from previous simulations – **change dp**

```
<!-- Water up stream -->
<setmkfluid mk="0" />
<setboxlimitmode mode="full" />
<fillbox x="-0.1" y="0.25" z="0.005">
  <modefill>void</modefill>
  <point x="-1.475" y="0.0025" z="0.0" />
  <size x="3.4" y="0.495" z="0.15" />
</fillbox>
<!-- Water from bi4 -->
<setmkvoid mk="0" />
<redraw mkfluid="0">
  <filterfluid maxratio="0.5" file="Initial2D/Part_0300.bi4" />
</redraw>
<_shapeout file="" />
</mainlist>
```

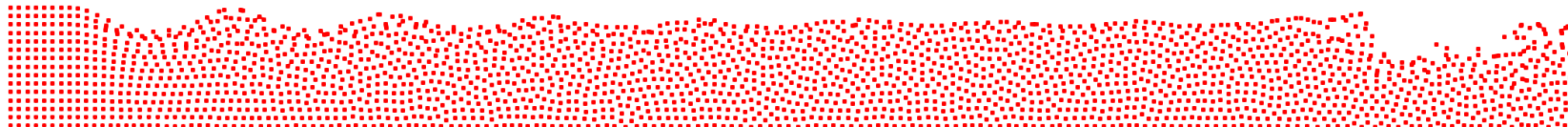
Creates fillbox to fill domain with fluid particles

Redraws freesurface and removes fluid particles of chosen mkfluid according to previous .bi4 data

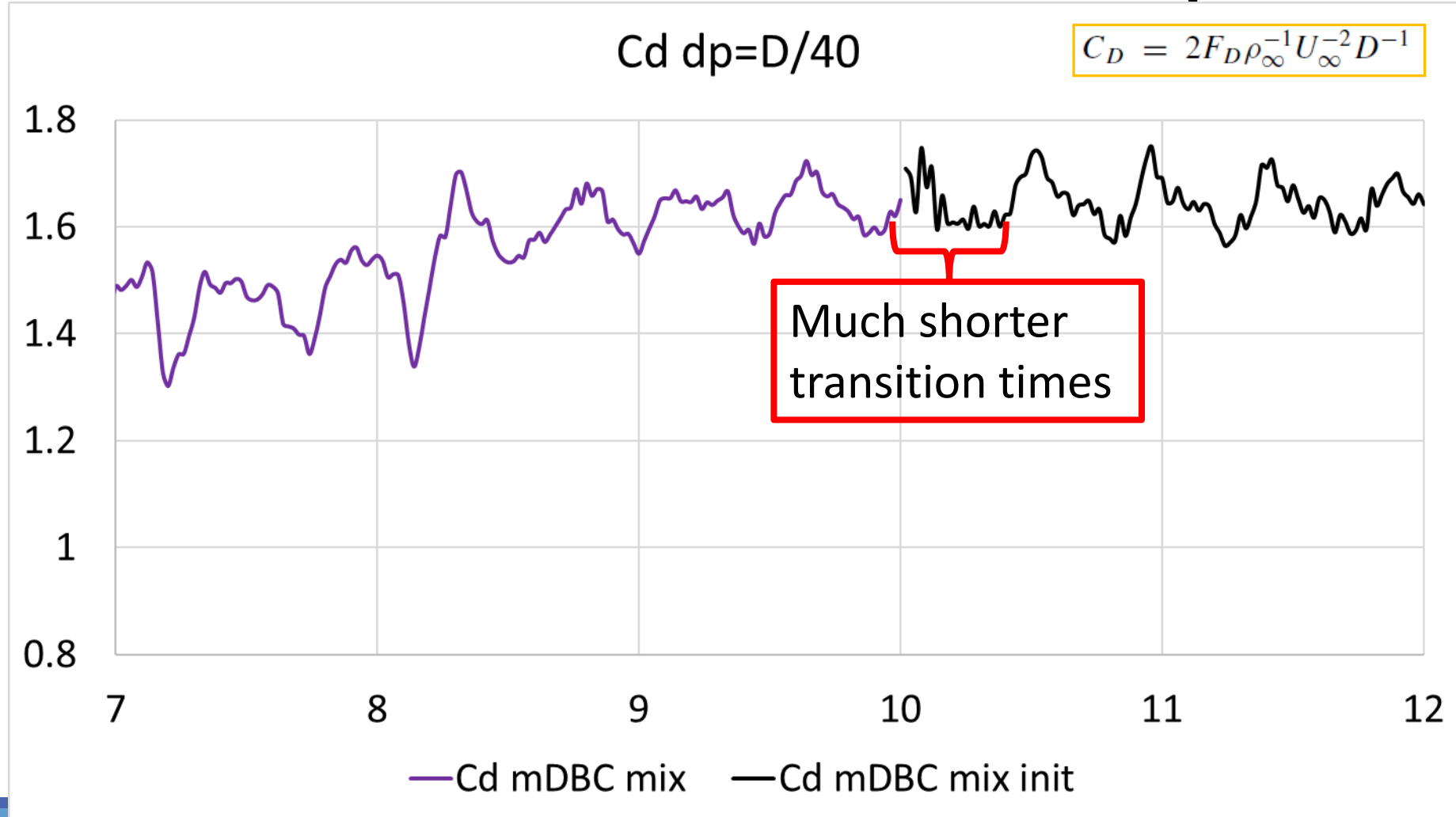
New finer resolution



Previous course resolution



Defining initial conditions from previous simulations - examples



Defining initial conditions for previous simulations

Time: 0.00s

Run times on RTX 4090:

Fine resolution 1535 secs (24,357 part)

Coarse resolution 586 secs (6,678 parts)

Initialised sim 600 secs (20,823 parts)

Coarse + init combo 1186 secs (77%)

Take
data
from
 $t=15s$

Finer resolution simulation

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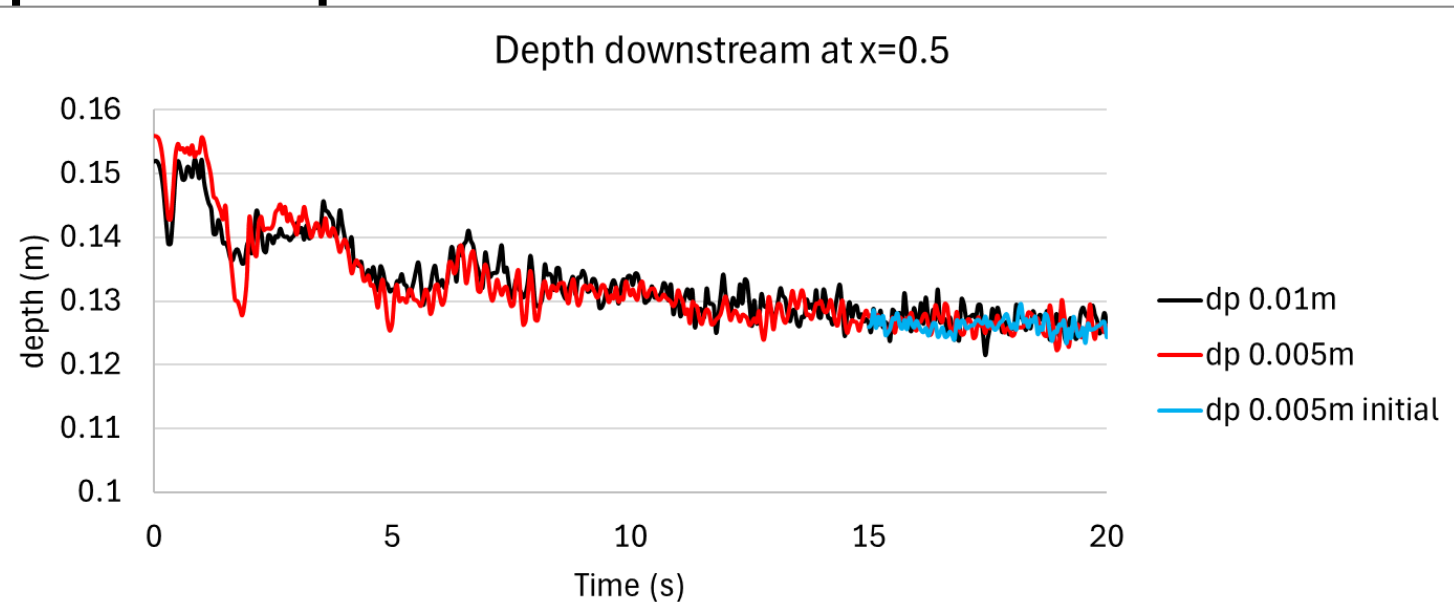
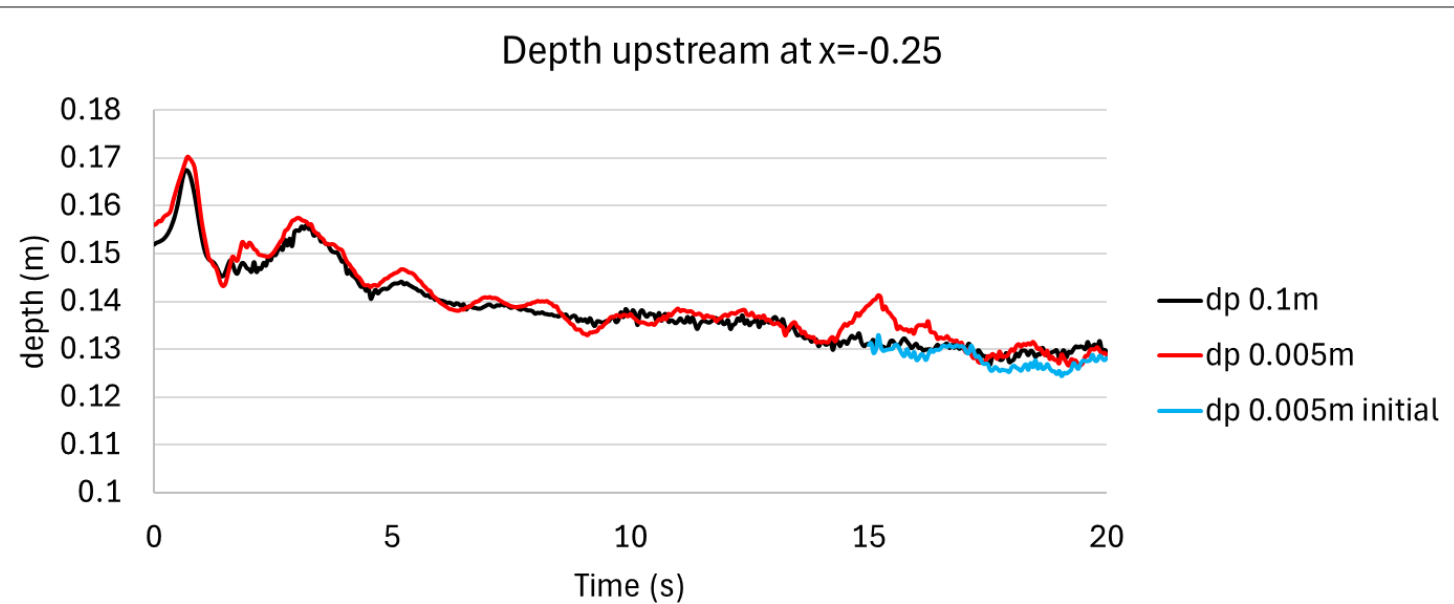


Smoothed particle hydrodynamics modelling of river flows past bridges

Aaron English^a, Renato Vacondio^a, Susanna Dazzi^a, José M. Domínguez^b

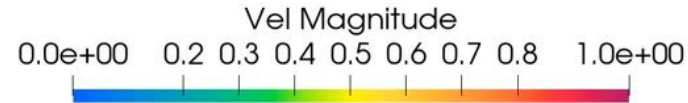
^a Department of Engineering and Architecture, Università degli Studi di Parma, Parma, Italy

^b Environmental Physics Laboratory, CIM-UVIGO, Universidade de Vigo, Vigo, Spain

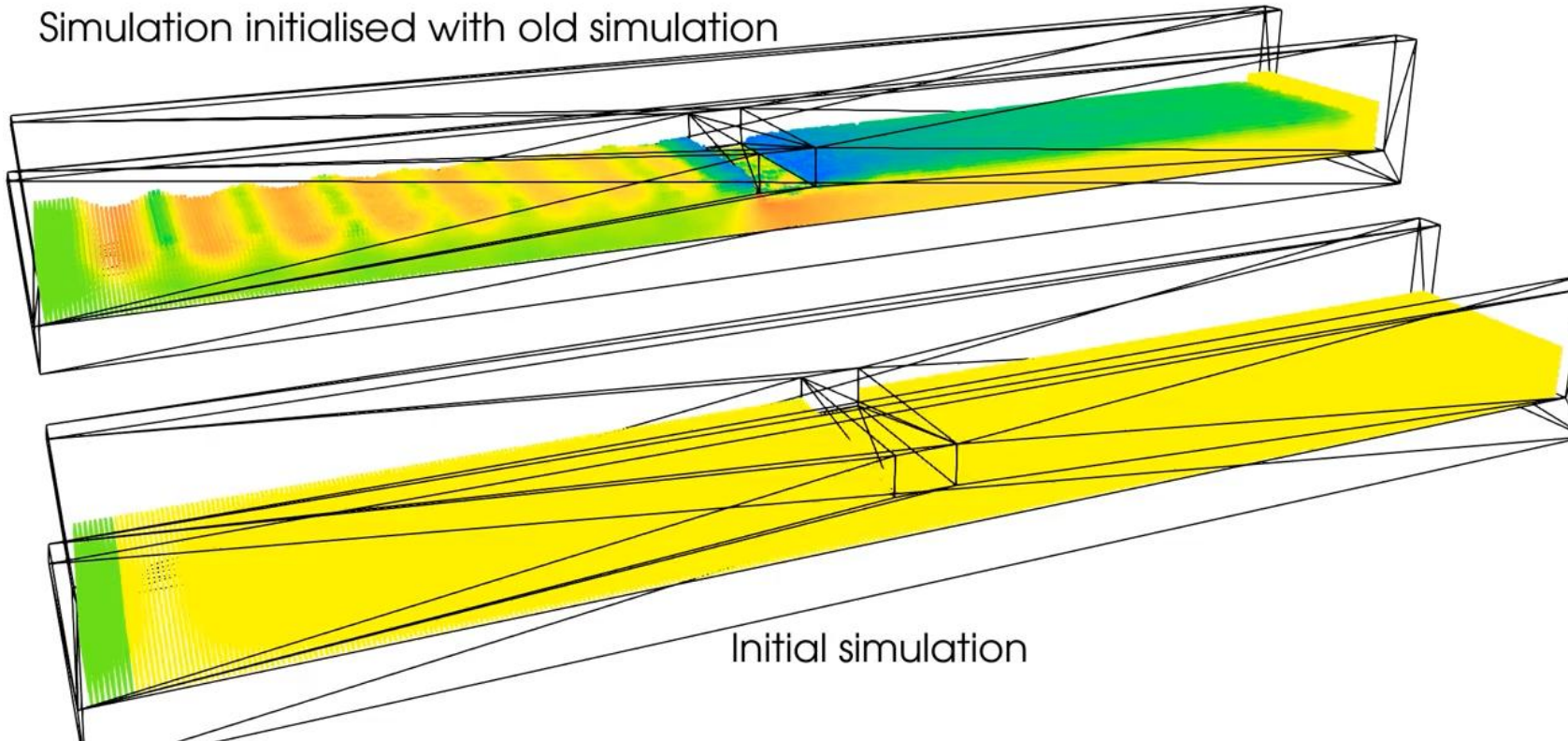


Defining initial conditions from previous simulations 3D (NEW)

Time: 0.00s



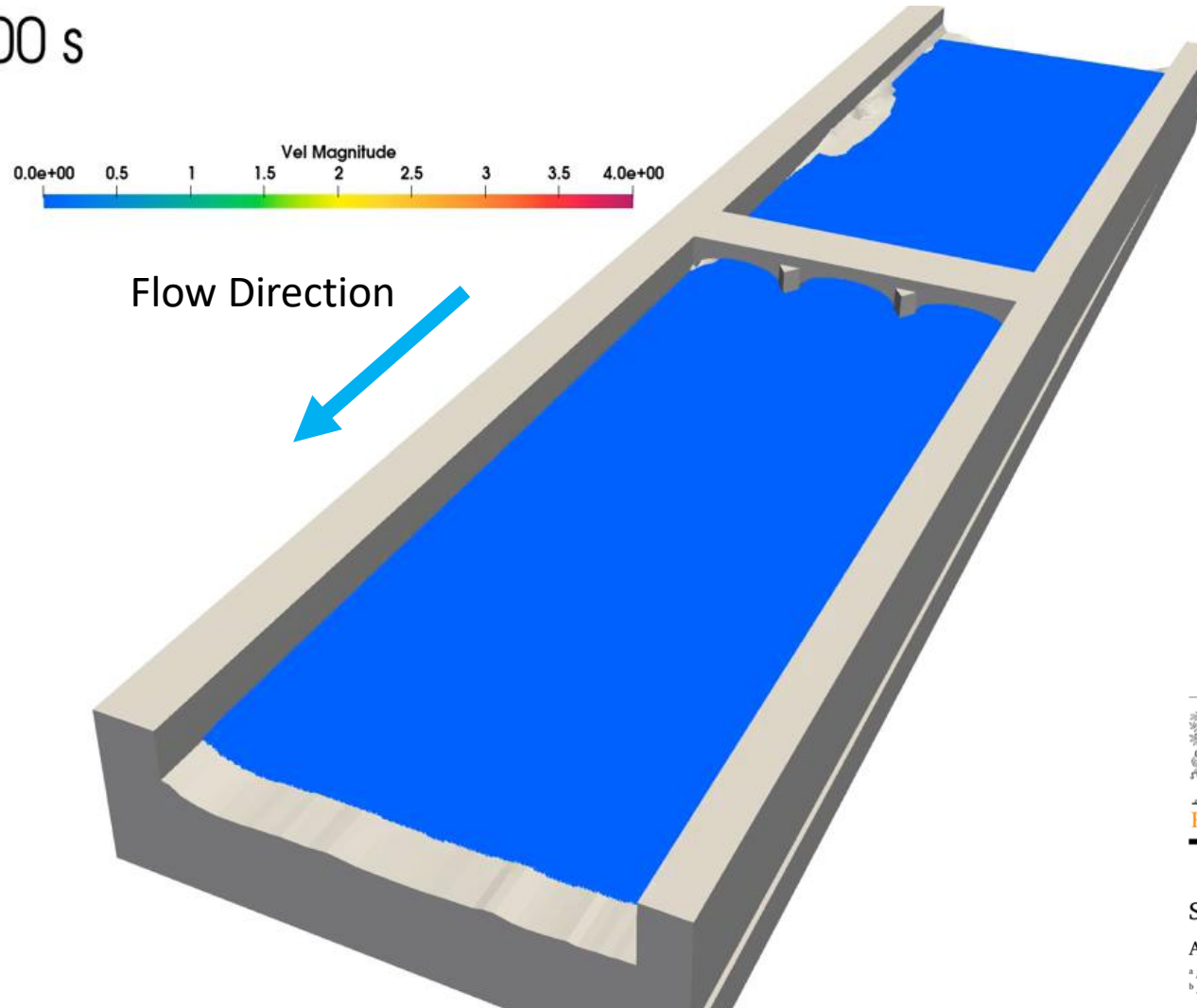
Simulation initialised with old simulation



Initial simulation

Large scale example

Time: 0.00 s



All run on NVIDIA RTX 4090
Arno test case $Q=909\text{m}^3/\text{s}$

Coarse resolution 8,730,146 particles
29.4 h to simulate 600 s, and reach
steady state

The finer resolution 57,433,510
particles 167.7 h (one week) to
simulate 200 s, restarting from the
coarser steady state

**Completed in 40% of the time of a
full high res simulation**

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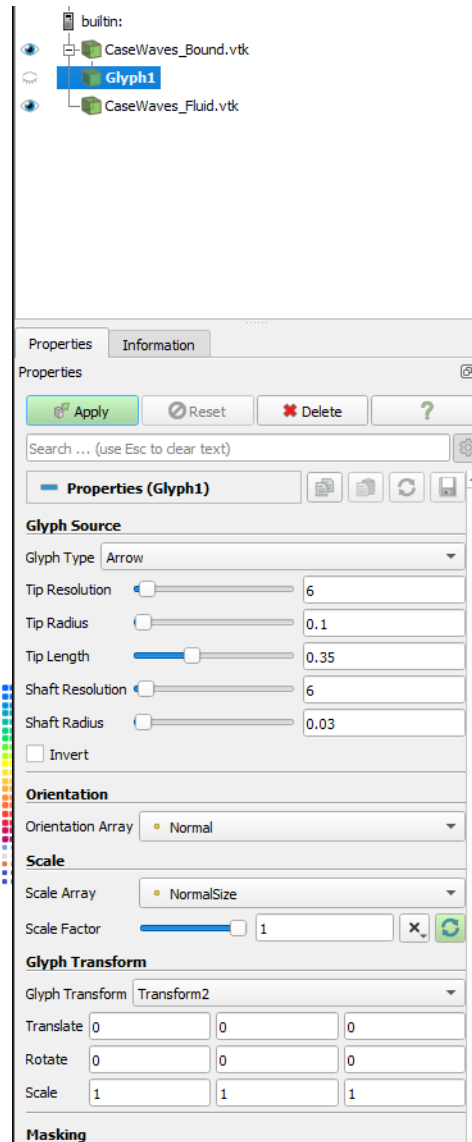
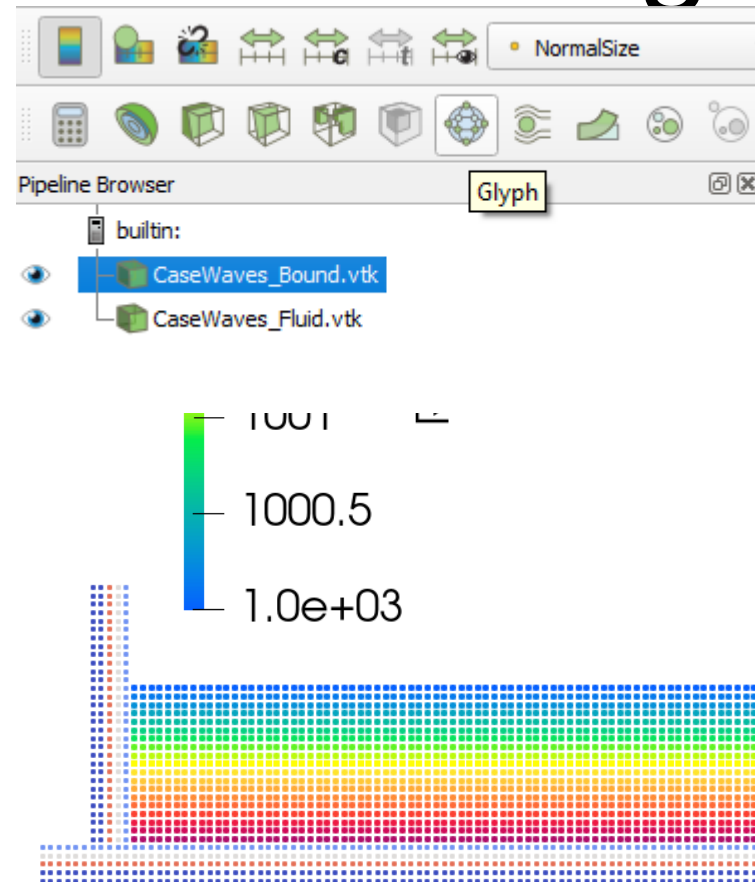
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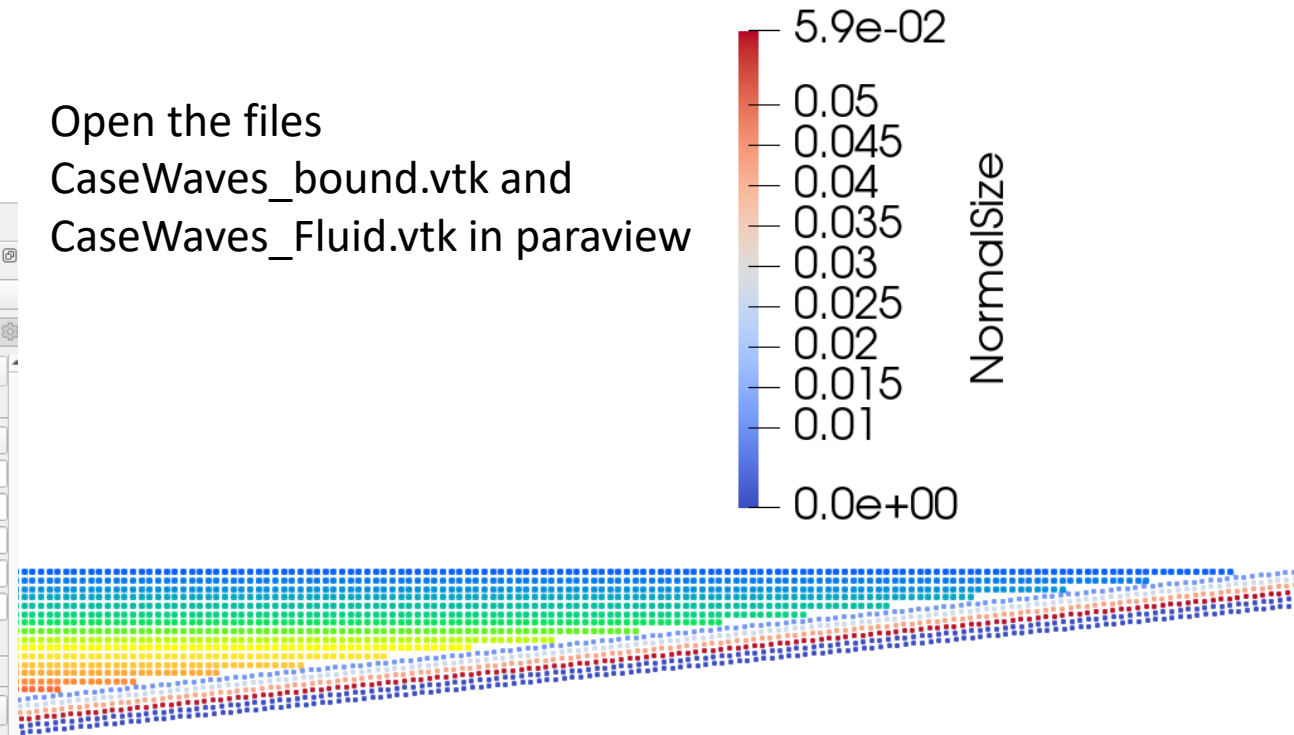
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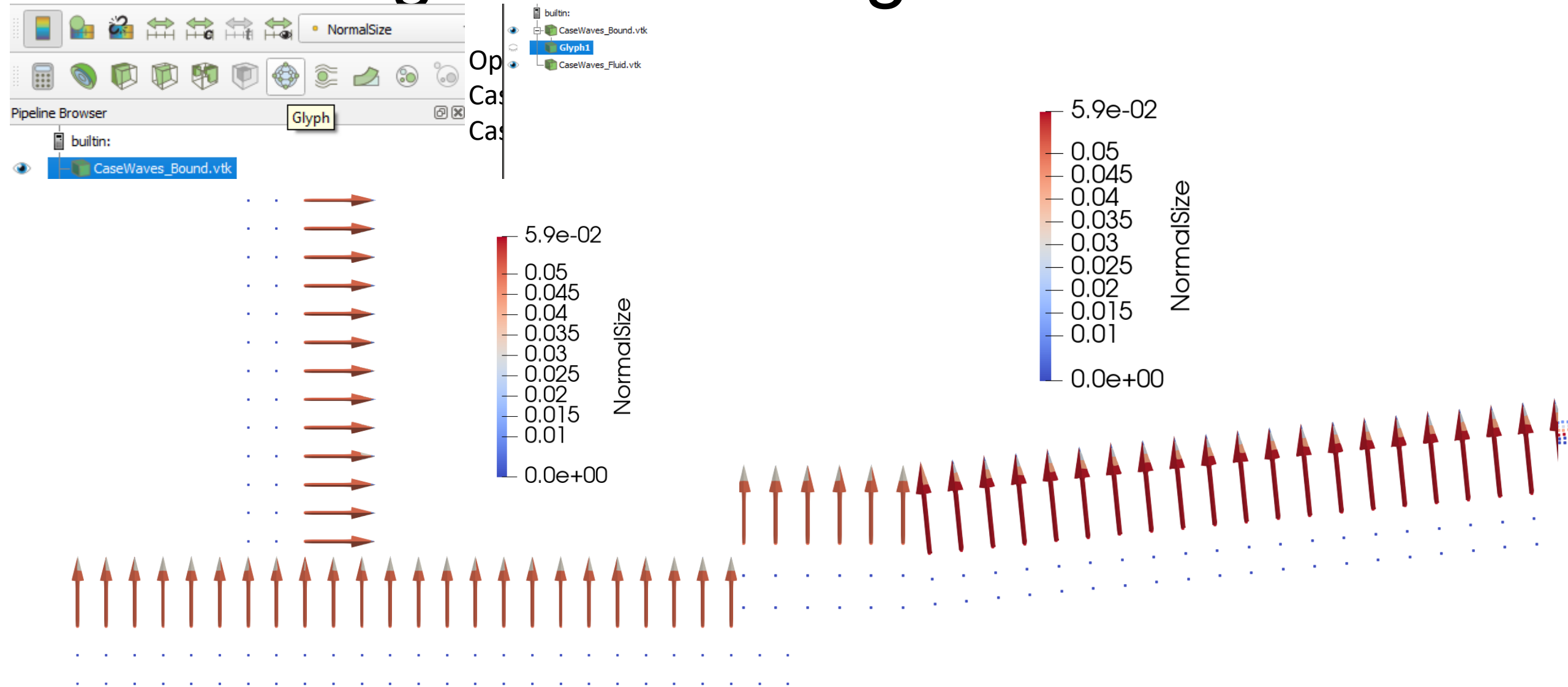
Defining and checking normals



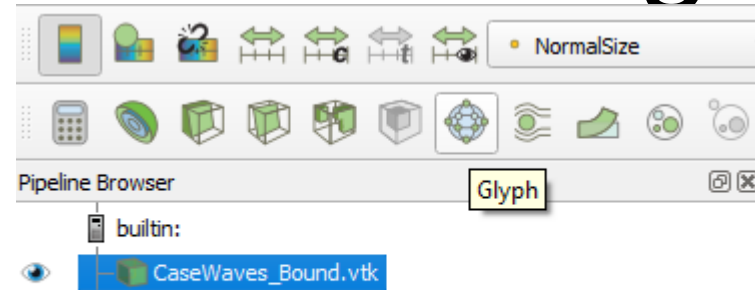
Open the files
CaseWaves_bound.vtk and
CaseWaves_Fluid.vtk in paraview



Defining and checking normals

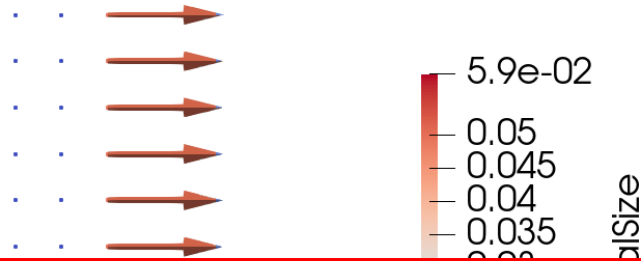


Defining and checking normals



Op
Cas
Cas

```
Evaluating 189,256 particles with 6 shapes (distance 3x H = 0.124708).  
Time for computing 190,021 normals: 0.004s    Max.Memory: 9.32 MiB  
Non-zero particle normals: 175,004/189,256    Normals size range: (0.009899 - 0.070711).  
Final zero normals: 0/189,256 (0.0%)    Maximum normal: 0.396154 (9.53 x h)
```



What about more complicated geometries?

Use the hdp line approach

```
Boundary="mDBC"  
SlipMode="mDBC No-slip"  
mDBC-NoPenetration=True  
mDBC-NoPenetrationFt=True  
mDBC-TanVelFt=True  
StepAlgorithm="Symplectic"  
Kernel="Wendland"  
Wendland.awen=5816.103  
Wendland.bwenh=-1.682908e+07  
Viscosity="Artificial"  
Visco=0.02  
ViscoBoundFactor=1
```

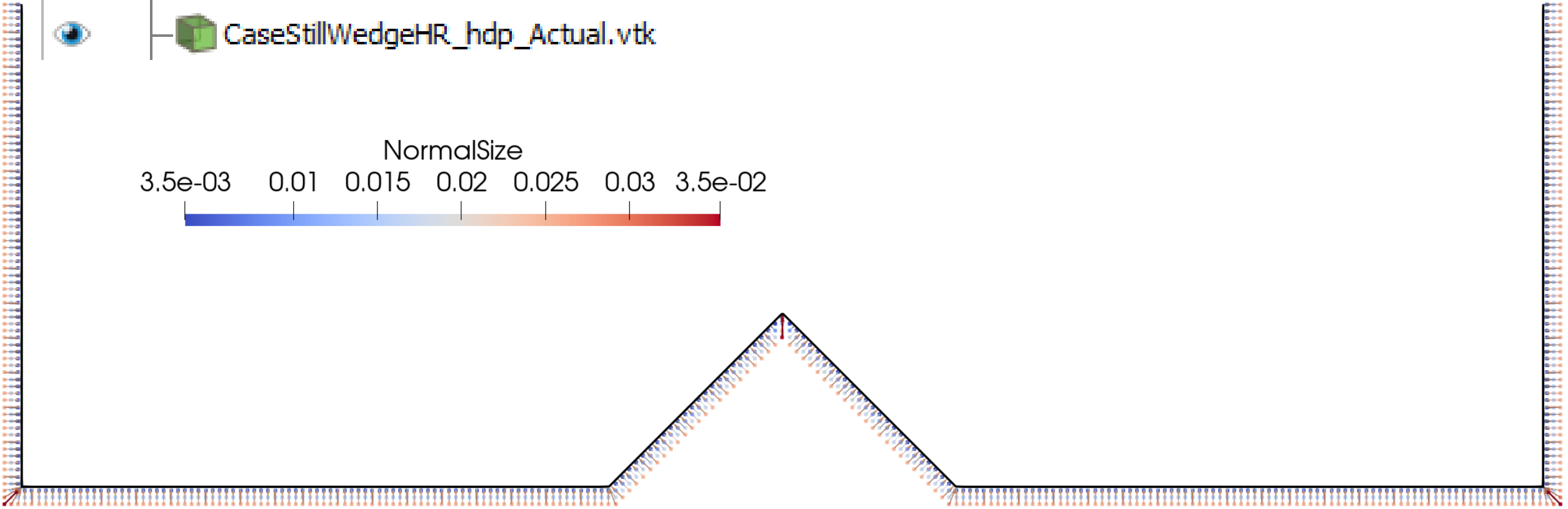
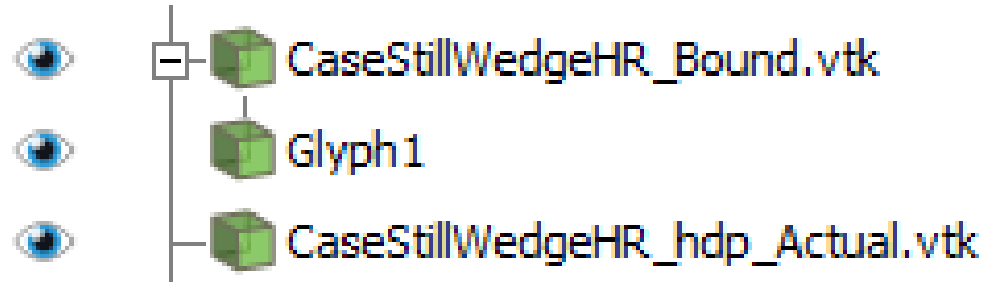
Defining and ch

```
<geometry>
  <definition dp="0.01" units_comment="metres (m)">
    <pointmin x="-1" y="0" z="-1" />
    <pointmax x="2.5" y="0" z="2" />
  </definition>
  <commands>
    <list name="GeometryForNormals">
      <setactive drawpoints="0" drawshapes="1" />
      <setshapemode>actual | bound</setshapemode>
      <setmkbound mk="0" />
      <drawextrude closed="false">
        <point x="0.005" y="-0.1" z="0.7" />
        <point x="0.005" y="-0.1" z="0.005" />
        <point x="0.85" y="-0.1" z="0.005" />
        <point x="1.1" y="-0.1" z="0.255" />
        <point x="1.35" y="-0.1" z="0.005" />
        <point x="2.195" y="-0.1" z="0.005" />
        <point x="2.195" y="-0.1" z="0.7" />
        <extrude x="0" y="0.2" z="0" />
      </drawextrude>
      <shapeout file="hdp" />
      <resetdraw />
    </list>
    <!-- Actual geometry at dp/2 -->
    <runlist name="GeometryForNormals" />
    <!-- Boundary particles -->
    <setdrawmode mode="full" />
    <setmkbound mk="0" />
    <drawextrude closed="false">
      <point x="0" y="0" z="0.7" />
      <point x="0" y="0" z="0" />
      <point x="0.85" y="0" z="0" />
      <point x="1.1" y="0" z="0.25" />
      <point x="1.35" y="0" z="0" />
      <point x="2.2" y="0" z="0" />
      <point x="2.2" y="0" z="0.7" />
      <extrude x="0" y="0.1" z="0" />
      <layers vdp="0,-0.5,-1,-1.5,-2" />
    </drawextrude>
    <!-- Fluid particles -->
    <setmkfluid mk="0" />
    <fillbox x="0.1" y="0" z="0.1">
      <modefill>void</modefill>
      <point x="-0.1" y="-1" z="-0.1" />
      <size x="2.3" y="2" z="0.6" />
    </fillbox>
  </mainlist>
</commands>
</geometry>
```

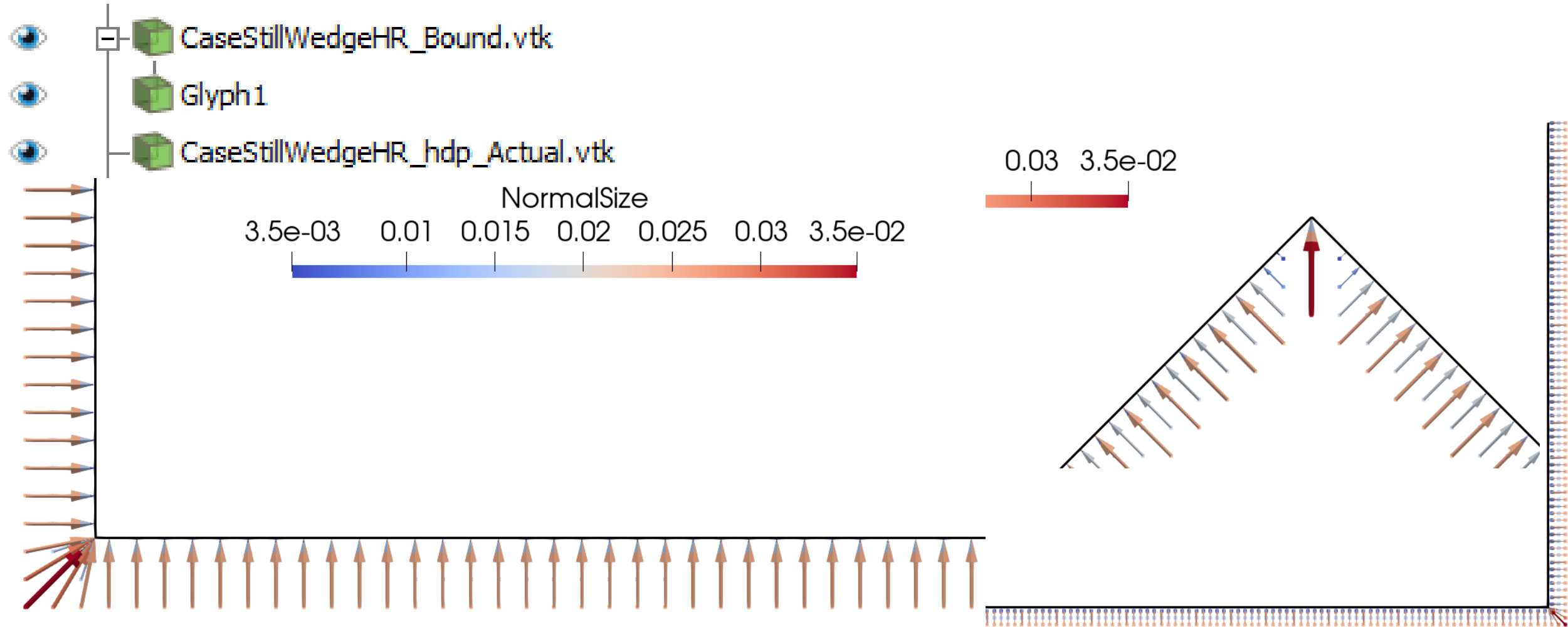
```
<list name="GeometryForNormals">
  <setactive drawpoints="0" drawshapes="1" />
  <setshapemode>actual | bound</setshapemode>
  <setmkbound mk="0" />
  <drawextrude closed="false">
    <point x="0.005" y="-0.1" z="0.7" />
    <point x="0.005" y="-0.1" z="0.005" />
    <point x="0.85" y="-0.1" z="0.005" />
    <point x="1.1" y="-0.1" z="0.255" />
    <point x="1.35" y="-0.1" z="0.005" />
    <point x="2.195" y="-0.1" z="0.005" />
    <point x="2.195" y="-0.1" z="0.7" />
    <extrude x="0" y="0.2" z="0" />
  </drawextrude>
  <shapeout file="hdp" />
  <resetdraw />
</list>
```

```
<mainlist>
  <!-- Actual geometry at dp/2 -->
  <runlist name="GeometryForNormals" />
  <!-- Boundary particles -->
  <setdrawmode mode="full" />
  <setmkbound mk="0" />
  <drawextrude closed="false">
    <point x="0" y="0" z="0.7" />
    <point x="0" y="0" z="0" />
    <point x="0.85" y="0" z="0" />
    <point x="1.1" y="0" z="0.25" />
    <point x="1.35" y="0" z="0" />
    <point x="2.2" y="0" z="0" />
    <point x="2.2" y="0" z="0.7" />
    <extrude x="0" y="0.1" z="0" />
    <layers vdp="0,-0.5,-1,-1.5,-2" />
  </drawextrude>
  <!-- Fluid particles -->
```

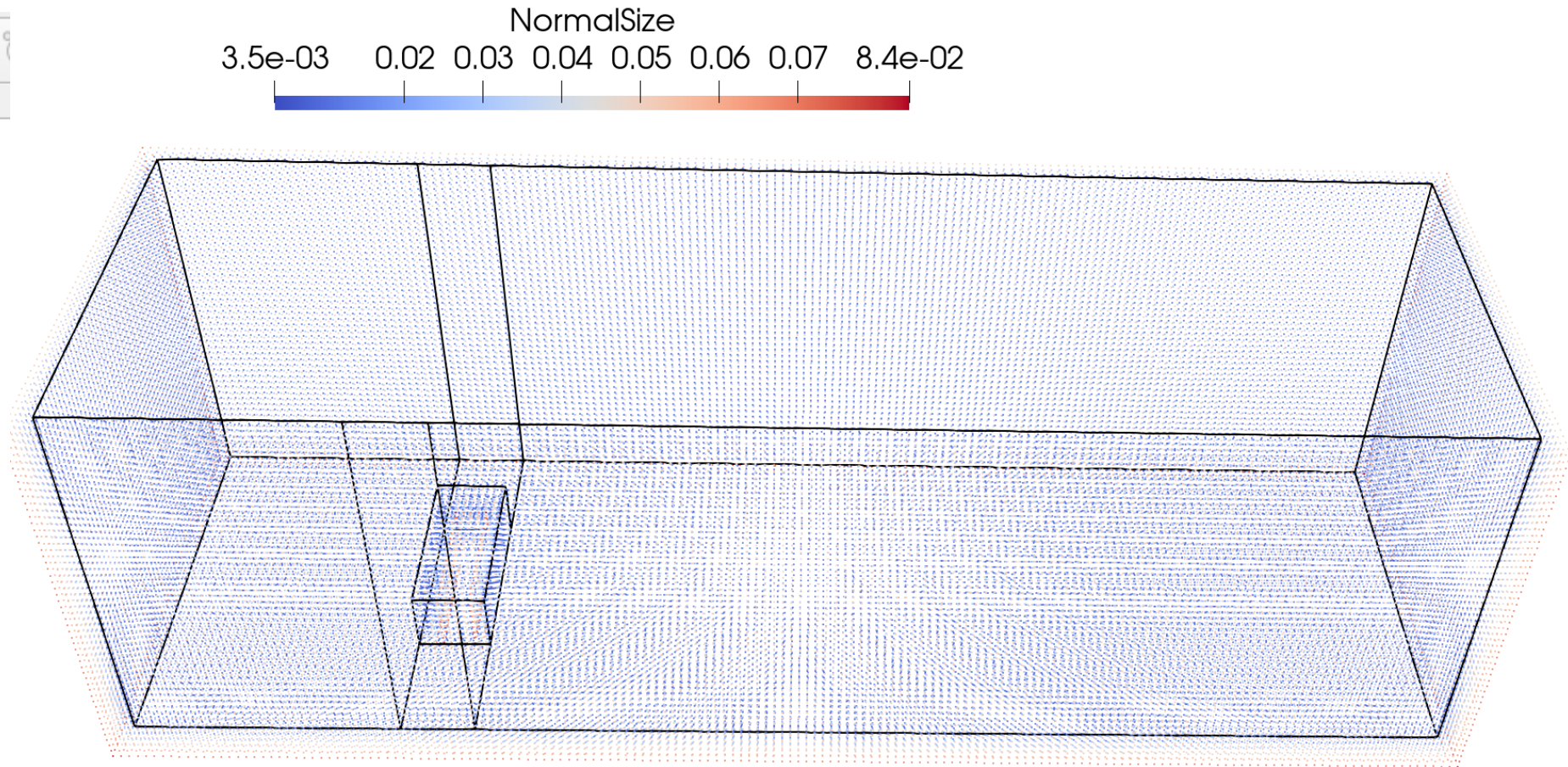
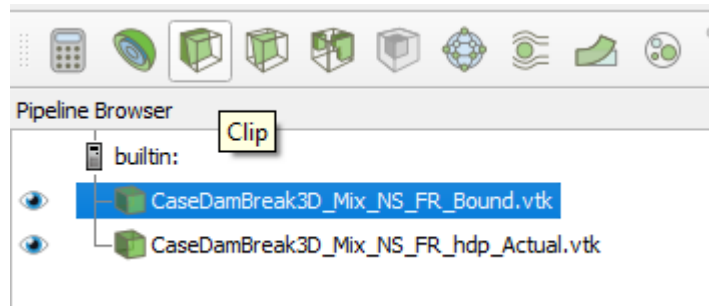
Defining and checking normals



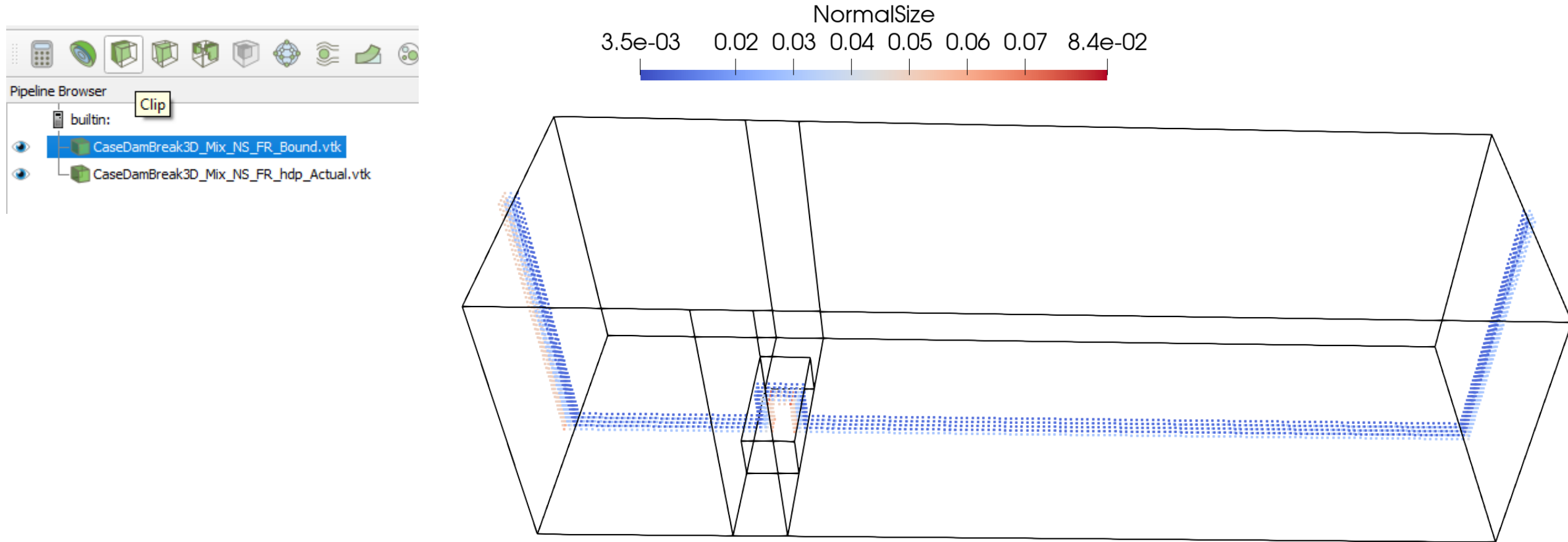
Defining and checking normals



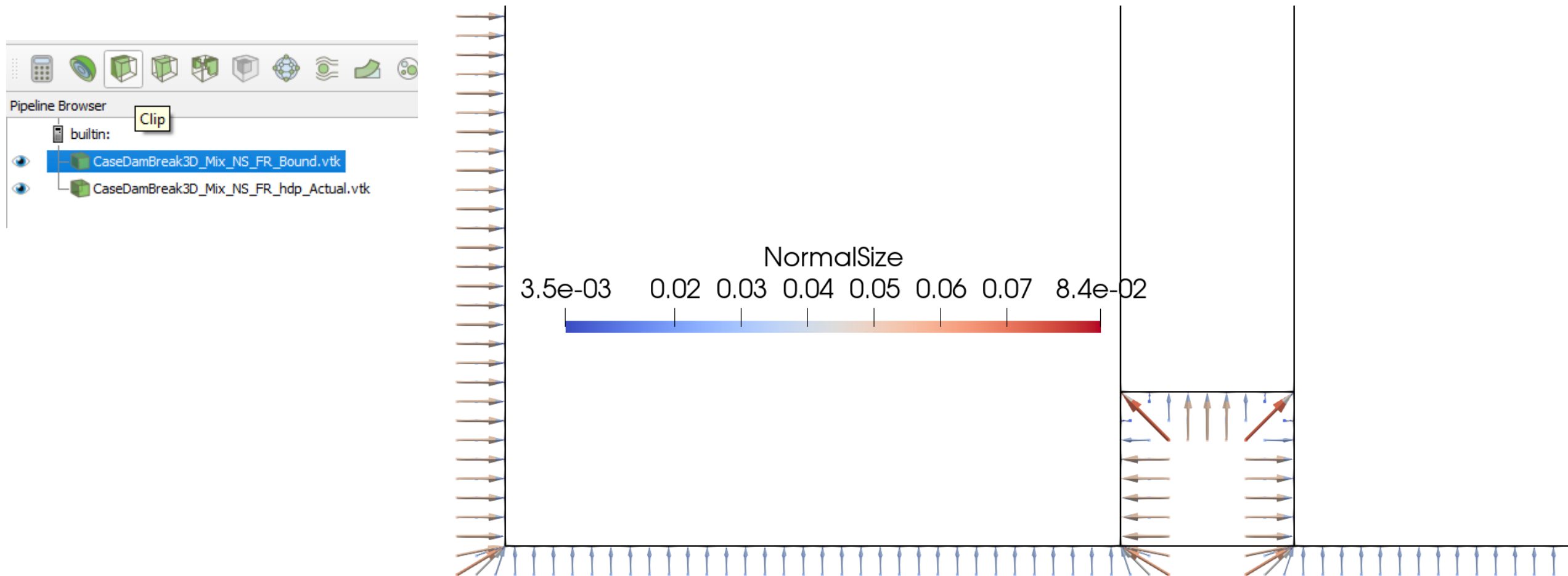
Defining and checking normals 3D



Defining and checking normals 3D



Defining and checking normals 3D



Conclusions

- There are now 5 boundary options to choose from in DualSPHysics
- It is not possible to use more than one boundary condition in simulation
- Previous simulation outputs can be used as initial conditions for easier set ups and reduced overall run times
- Checking boundary normals and boundary set up has never been easier