



## Course guide

# 820762 - TFSA - Turbulence: Phenomenology, Simulation, Aerodynamics

Last modified: 09/09/2025

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|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Unit in charge:</b> | Barcelona School of Industrial Engineering                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Teaching unit:</b>  | 724 - MMT - Department of Heat Engines.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Degree:</b>         | MASTER'S DEGREE IN ENERGY ENGINEERING (Syllabus 2013). (Optional subject).<br>MASTER'S DEGREE IN INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING (Syllabus 2014). (Optional subject).<br>ERASMUS MUNDUS MASTER'S DEGREE IN DECENTRALISED SMART ENERGY SYSTEMS (DENSYS) (Syllabus 2020). (Optional subject).<br>MASTER'S DEGREE IN THERMAL ENGINEERING (Syllabus 2021). (Optional subject).<br>MASTER'S DEGREE IN ENERGY ENGINEERING (Syllabus 2022). (Optional subject). |

**Academic year:** 2025    **ECTS Credits:** 5.0    **Languages:** English

## LECTURER

**Coordinating lecturer:** Xavier Trias i Carlos-David Pérez Segarra

**Others:** Ivette Rodríguez, Aleix Baez, Jordi Ventosa

## PRIOR SKILLS

Fundamentals of thermodynamics, fluid mechanics and heat transfer necessary to understand the operation of the motor thermal machines.

## REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge equivalent to having completed the course of levelling of the Master's

## DEGREE COMPETENCES TO WHICH THE SUBJECT CONTRIBUTES

### Specific:

CEMT-7. Analyse the performance of equipment and facilities in operation to carry out a diagnostic assessment of the use system and establish measures to improve their energy efficiency.

CEMT-5. Employ technical and economic criteria to select the most appropriate thermal equipment for a given application, dimension thermal equipment and facilities, and recognise and evaluate the newest technological applications in the production, transportation, distribution, storage and use of thermal energy.

### Transversal:

CT3. TEAMWORK: Being able to work in an interdisciplinary team, whether as a member or as a leader, with the aim of contributing to projects pragmatically and responsibly and making commitments in view of the resources that are available.

CT4. EFFECTIVE USE OF INFORMATION RESOURCES: Managing the acquisition, structuring, analysis and display of data and information in the chosen area of specialisation and critically assessing the results obtained.



## TEACHING METHODOLOGY

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Teaching methodology:

The course teaching methodologies are as follows:

- Lectures and conferences: presentation of knowledge by lecturers or guest speakers.
- Participatory sessions: collective resolution of exercises, debates and group dynamics, with the lecturer and other students in the classroom; classroom presentation of an activity individually or in small groups.
- Theoretical/practical supervised work (TD): classroom activity carried out individually or in small groups, with the advice and supervision of the teacher.
- Homework assignment of reduced extension: carry out homework of reduced extension, individually or in groups.
- Homework assignment of broad extension: design, planning and implementation of a project or homework of broad extension by a group of students, and writing a report that should include the approach, results and conclusions.
- Evaluation activities (EV).

Training activities:

The course training activities are as follows:

- Face to face activities
  - o Lectures and conferences: learning based on understanding and synthesizing the knowledge presented by the teacher or by invited speakers.
  - o Participatory sessions: learning based on participating in the collective resolution of exercises, as well as in discussions and group dynamics, with the lecturer and other students in the classroom.
  - o Presentations (PS): learning based on presenting in the classroom an activity individually or in small groups.
  - o Theoretical/practical supervised work (TD): learning based on performing an activity in the classroom, or a theoretical or practical exercise, individually or in small groups, with the advice of the teacher.
- Study activities
  - o Homework assignment of reduced extension (PR): learning based on applying knowledge and presenting results.
  - o Homework assignment of broad extension (PA): learning based on applying and extending knowledge.
  - o Self-study (EA): learning based on studying or expanding the contents of the learning material, individually or in groups, understanding, assimilating, analysing and synthesizing knowledge.
- o Homework assignment of broad extension (PA): learning based on applying and extending knowledge.
- o Self-study (EA): learning based on studying or expanding the contents of the learning material, individually or in groups, understanding, assimilating, analysing and synthesizing knowledge.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES OF THE SUBJECT

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Goals:

Know and understand the phenomenology of turbulent flows.

Understand and correctly interpret statistical tools for turbulent flows.

Learn the basics of modelling turbulence.

Performing various practical number to better understand the theoretical aspects of the course.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the course, the student:

Will have basic knowledge of turbulence and its energy spectrum.

Statistical treatment of turbulent flows.

Modelling and resolution of turbulent flows.

Application of basic numerical methods and turbulence to improve energy efficiency by means of efficient aerodynamic designs.



## STUDY LOAD

| Type              | Hours | Percentage |
|-------------------|-------|------------|
| Self study        | 93,4  | 67.49      |
| Hours large group | 45,0  | 32.51      |

**Total learning time:** 138.4 h

## CONTENTS

### Content 1. Introduction-review of the governing equations: Navier-Stokes and energy conservation. Basic concepts. Theory of boundary layer

#### Description:

General review of the Navier-Stokes equations. Basic principles, symmetries and invariants. Brief introduction to the theory of the boundary layer.

#### Specific objectives:

Know the basic principles of the Navier-Stokes equations and the physical meaning of each of its terms.

Learn the relationship between symmetry operators and invariants.

Know the basic concepts about the theory of the boundary layer needed to perform numerical simulations.

#### Related activities:

Theory class

#### Related competencies :

CEMT-7. Analyse the performance of equipment and facilities in operation to carry out a diagnostic assessment of the use system and establish measures to improve their energy efficiency.

CEMT-5. Employ technical and economic criteria to select the most appropriate thermal equipment for a given application, dimension thermal equipment and facilities, and recognise and evaluate the newest technological applications in the production, transportation, distribution, storage and use of thermal energy.

#### Full-or-part-time: 11h

Theory classes: 3h

Self study : 8h



**Content 2. Introduction to turbulence. Energy spectrum. Averaged Navier-Stokes equations. Average flow and Reynolds tensor terms. Statistical treatment: autocorrelations, PDF ...**

**Description:**

From the Navier-Stokes equations the phenomenology of turbulence and its statistical treatment is introduced. Introduction of the concept of energy spectrum from a simple practical exercise.

**Specific objectives:**

Review of basic statistical concepts. Introduction of statistical treatment of the Navier-Stokes equations.

Introduction of the concept of energy spectrum and its link with everyday reality.

Introduction to turbulence and its mathematical complexity.

**Related activities:**

Theory class

**Related competencies :**

CEMT-7. Analyse the performance of equipment and facilities in operation to carry out a diagnostic assessment of the use system and establish measures to improve their energy efficiency.

CEMT-5. Employ technical and economic criteria to select the most appropriate thermal equipment for a given application, dimension thermal equipment and facilities, and recognise and evaluate the newest technological applications in the production, transportation, distribution, storage and use of thermal energy.

**Full-or-part-time:** 35h

Theory classes: 9h

Guided activities: 3h

Self study : 23h



**Content 3. Numerical methods for solving the governing equations. Conservative discretisation. Temporary integration of equations. Solvers.**

**Description:**

Introduction to numerical methods for the resolution of turbulent flows. Analysis of the conservative properties of discrete equations and deduction of which properties must meet the numerical schemes to be consistent.

**Specific objectives:**

Be able to represent in an algebraic way a system of discrete equations.

Understand the link between the symmetries of discrete and continuous operators.

Be able to deduce the properties of discrete operators in order to maintain the same invariants continuous.

Implement it in their own code and verify their conservative properties.

**Related activities:**

Theory class

Practical class

Broad scope work

**Related competencies :**

CEMT-7. Analyse the performance of equipment and facilities in operation to carry out a diagnostic assessment of the use system and establish measures to improve their energy efficiency.

CEMT-5. Employ technical and economic criteria to select the most appropriate thermal equipment for a given application, dimension thermal equipment and facilities, and recognise and evaluate the newest technological applications in the production, transportation, distribution, storage and use of thermal energy.

CT4. EFFECTIVE USE OF INFORMATION RESOURCES: Managing the acquisition, structuring, analysis and display of data and information in the chosen area of specialisation and critically assessing the results obtained.

CT3. TEAMWORK: Being able to work in an interdisciplinary team, whether as a member or as a leader, with the aim of contributing to projects pragmatically and responsibly and making commitments in view of the resources that are available.

**Full-or-part-time:** 31h

Theory classes: 8h

Guided activities: 2h

Self study : 21h



#### Content 4. Direct turbulence resolution (DNS). Different forms of modelling turbulence: LES and models of regularisation

##### Description:

Introduction to direct simulation of turbulence. Understand its potential and its limitations. Introduction to modelling techniques of turbulence of Large-Eddy Simulation (LES) types and the models of regularisation of convective heat.

##### Specific objectives:

Know what direct simulations of turbulence involve. What is its usefulness and what are its limitations.

Know the basic principles behind the modelling techniques of Large-Eddy Simulation (LES) types of turbulence.

Brief explanation of the models used today.

Know the basic principles behind the turbulence modelling techniques based on regularisation of convective heat.

##### Related activities:

Theory class

Practical class

Reduced scope work

Broad scope work

##### Related competencies :

CEMT-7. Analyse the performance of equipment and facilities in operation to carry out a diagnostic assessment of the use system and establish measures to improve their energy efficiency.

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##### Full-or-part-time: 21h

Theory classes: 5h

Guided activities: 2h

Self study : 14h



**Content 5. Application of simulation techniques in the study of flows around obstacles, around a cylinder, around an aerodynamic profile and around a simplified car**

**Description:**

Apply knowledge to some practical cases.

**Specific objectives:**

Know the different technologies used depending on the working temperature range.

Know the different medio-environmental aspects and regulations related to solar thermal installations such as low and high temperature.

Know the different methods and software for calculating solar thermal installations.

Be able to perform the calculation and dimensioning of different types of solar thermal installations such as facilities for sanitary water heating, absorption cooling facilities, thermo-solar plants.

**Related activities:**

Theory class

Practical class

Broad scope work

**Related competencies :**

CEMT-7. Analyse the performance of equipment and facilities in operation to carry out a diagnostic assessment of the use system and establish measures to improve their energy efficiency.

CEMT-5. Employ technical and economic criteria to select the most appropriate thermal equipment for a given application, dimension thermal equipment and facilities, and recognise and evaluate the newest technological applications in the production, transportation, distribution, storage and use of thermal energy.

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**Full-or-part-time:** 27h

Theory classes: 5h

Guided activities: 8h

Self study : 14h



## ACTIVITIES

### Theory sessions

**Description:**

Methodology in large group. The content of the course will follow a model of exhibition class and participation. The material is organised into 5 subject areas or themes.

**Specific objectives:**

At the end of this activity, students should be able to master the knowledge, consolidate them and apply them correctly to various technical problems. The acquired knowledge will be applied to other activities/guided problems.

**Material:**

Recommended references. Notes and transparencies. Magazine articles related to the topic.

**Delivery:**

This activity is evaluated together with the rest of the course work and written test.

**Related competencies :**

CEMT-7. Analyse the performance of equipment and facilities in operation to carry out a diagnostic assessment of the use system and establish measures to improve their energy efficiency.

CEMT-5. Employ technical and economic criteria to select the most appropriate thermal equipment for a given application, dimension thermal equipment and facilities, and recognise and evaluate the newest technological applications in the production, transportation, distribution, storage and use of thermal energy.

**Full-or-part-time:** 93h

Theory classes: 28h

Guided activities: 5h

Self study: 60h



## 2. Numerical resolution of Burgers equation in Fourier space

### Description:

Broad scope work where students put into practice the knowledge acquired. The problem consists in solving numerically the Burgers equation in Fourier space.

### Specific objectives:

Be able to numerically solve the problem.

Consolidate the theoretical knowledge acquired by means of the practical problems posed: energy spectrum, statistical analysis of the results, conservative properties of equations...

Understand the physical and numerical dependence of different parameters present in the posed problem.

### Material:

Recommended references. Notes and transparencies. Magazine articles related to the topic.

### Delivery:

Report with the results and their analysis.

### Related competencies :

CEMT-7. Analyse the performance of equipment and facilities in operation to carry out a diagnostic assessment of the use system and establish measures to improve their energy efficiency.

CEMT-5. Employ technical and economic criteria to select the most appropriate thermal equipment for a given application, dimension thermal equipment and facilities, and recognise and evaluate the newest technological applications in the production, transportation, distribution, storage and use of thermal energy.

CT4. EFFECTIVE USE OF INFORMATION RESOURCES: Managing the acquisition, structuring, analysis and display of data and information in the chosen area of specialisation and critically assessing the results obtained.

CT3. TEAMWORK: Being able to work in an interdisciplinary team, whether as a member or as a leader, with the aim of contributing to projects pragmatically and responsibly and making commitments in view of the resources that are available.

### Full-or-part-time: 7h

Theory classes: 1h

Guided activities: 2h

Self study: 4h



### 3. Implementing a structured two-dimensional code to solve the incompressible Navier-Stokes

**Description:**

Broad scope work where students put into practice the knowledge acquired. The problem consists in implementing a code of their own to solve the Navier-Stokes equations for incompressible flows. It will be limited to Cartesian mesh structures and two-dimensional flows. At least a couple of problems to solve will be posed: one for forced convection and one for natural convection.

**Specific objectives:**

Be able to implement a code of their own to solve the incompressible Navier-Stokes equations.

Understand the role played by different types of spatial discretisations. In particular, it is asked to verify different conservative properties: mass, momentum, kinetic energy...

Implement at least one linear solver to solve the Poisson equation for the pressure.

Verify the tools given during the course of the different parts of the code.

Consolidate the theoretical knowledge acquired by means of the practical problems posed: discrete symmetry operators, linear solvers, temporary discretisations...

Understand the dependence of physical and numerical parameters present in the posed problems.

**Material:**

Recommended references. Notes and transparencies. Magazine articles related to the topic.

**Delivery:**

Report with the results and their analysis. Delivery of source code.

**Related competencies :**

CEMT-5. Employ technical and economic criteria to select the most appropriate thermal equipment for a given application, dimension thermal equipment and facilities, and recognise and evaluate the newest technological applications in the production, transportation, distribution, storage and use of thermal energy.

CEMT-7. Analyse the performance of equipment and facilities in operation to carry out a diagnostic assessment of the use system and establish measures to improve their energy efficiency.

CT4. EFFECTIVE USE OF INFORMATION RESOURCES: Managing the acquisition, structuring, analysis and display of data and information in the chosen area of specialisation and critically assessing the results obtained.

CT3. TEAMWORK: Being able to work in an interdisciplinary team, whether as a member or as a leader, with the aim of contributing to projects pragmatically and responsibly and making commitments in view of the resources that are available.

**Full-or-part-time:** 6h

Guided activities: 2h

Self study: 4h



#### 4. Direct simulation of turbulence (DNS) in their own code

**Description:**

Broad scope work where students put into practice the knowledge acquired. The problem consists in performing a direct simulation of a turbulent case (DNS), make the appropriate statistical analysis and compare it with the reference solutions provided. This will be based on the code that the student must have previously implemented.

**Specific objectives:**

Based on numerical simulation code of the Navier-Stokes equations for two-dimensional flow to be able to perform a DNS simulation of a turbulent case.

Improve the efficiency of the code; probably improve the efficiency of the linear solver for the Poisson equation for the pressure. Be able to implement statistical analysis tools required to extract the requested results.

Consolidate the theoretical knowledge acquired by means of the practical problems posed: the results of the statistical analysis, boundary layer theory, calculation of Reynolds tensor elements...

Understand the dependence of physical and numerical parameters present in the posed problem.

**Material:**

Recommended references. Notes and transparencies. Magazine articles related to the topic.

**Delivery:**

Report with the results and their analysis.

**Related competencies :**

CEMT-7. Analyse the performance of equipment and facilities in operation to carry out a diagnostic assessment of the use system and establish measures to improve their energy efficiency.

CEMT-5. Employ technical and economic criteria to select the most appropriate thermal equipment for a given application, dimension thermal equipment and facilities, and recognise and evaluate the newest technological applications in the production, transportation, distribution, storage and use of thermal energy.

CT3. TEAMWORK: Being able to work in an interdisciplinary team, whether as a member or as a leader, with the aim of contributing to projects pragmatically and responsibly and making commitments in view of the resources that are available.

CT4. EFFECTIVE USE OF INFORMATION RESOURCES: Managing the acquisition, structuring, analysis and display of data and information in the chosen area of specialisation and critically assessing the results obtained.

**Full-or-part-time:** 6h

Guided activities: 2h

Self study: 4h



## 5. Numerical resolution of a case of LES modelling for Burgers equation in Fourier space

### Description:

Broad scope work where students put into practice the knowledge acquired. The problem consists in solving numerically Burgers equation in Fourier space using a Large-Eddy Simulation (LES) turbulence model. This simulation will be implemented based on the previous code.

### Specific objectives:

Be able to numerically solve the problem.

Consolidate the theoretical knowledge acquired by means of the practical problems posed: energy spectrum, statistical analysis of the results, conservative properties of equations, turbulence modelling, the Large-Eddy Simulation (LES) concept,...

Understand the dependence of physical and numerical parameters present in the posed problem. In particular, the constant present in the LES turbulence model.

### Material:

Recommended references. Notes and transparencies. Magazine articles related to the topic.

### Delivery:

Report with the results and their analysis.

### Related competencies :

CEMT-7. Analyse the performance of equipment and facilities in operation to carry out a diagnostic assessment of the use system and establish measures to improve their energy efficiency.

CEMT-5. Employ technical and economic criteria to select the most appropriate thermal equipment for a given application, dimension thermal equipment and facilities, and recognise and evaluate the newest technological applications in the production, transportation, distribution, storage and use of thermal energy.

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CT4. EFFECTIVE USE OF INFORMATION RESOURCES: Managing the acquisition, structuring, analysis and display of data and information in the chosen area of specialisation and critically assessing the results obtained.

**Full-or-part-time:** 5h

Guided activities: 2h

Self study: 3h



## 6. Resolution of the Navier-Stokes equations for the flow around an obstacle

### Description:

Broad scope work where students put into practice the knowledge acquired. The problem consists in solving flow around obstacles. This work will be based on the code implemented previously.

### Specific objectives:

Be able to numerically solve the problem.

Based on the developed code and verified previously, the necessary calculation tools for the specific problem will be implemented: calculation of drag and lift coefficients, frequency analysis of the signals to different parts of the physical domain... Consolidate the theoretical knowledge acquired by means of the practical problems raised.

Understand the dependence of physical and numerical parameters present in the posed problems. In particular stationary transitions to non-stationary and the transition to turbulence.

### Material:

Recommended references. Notes and transparencies. Magazine articles related to the topic.

### Delivery:

Report with the results and their analysis. Delivery of source code.

### Related competencies :

CEMT-7. Analyse the performance of equipment and facilities in operation to carry out a diagnostic assessment of the use system and establish measures to improve their energy efficiency.

CEMT-5. Employ technical and economic criteria to select the most appropriate thermal equipment for a given application, dimension thermal equipment and facilities, and recognise and evaluate the newest technological applications in the production, transportation, distribution, storage and use of thermal energy.

CT3. TEAMWORK: Being able to work in an interdisciplinary team, whether as a member or as a leader, with the aim of contributing to projects pragmatically and responsibly and making commitments in view of the resources that are available.

CT4. EFFECTIVE USE OF INFORMATION RESOURCES: Managing the acquisition, structuring, analysis and display of data and information in the chosen area of specialisation and critically assessing the results obtained.

**Full-or-part-time:** 6h

Guided activities: 2h

Self study: 4h



## 7. Written test

**Description:**

Development of a written test of the course contents 1 and 2. It includes theoretical aspects and development problems.

**Specific objectives:**

Demonstrate the level of knowledge achieved in theoretical activities and problems.

**Material:**

Recommended references. Notes and transparencies. Magazine articles related to the topic.

**Delivery:**

The exam will be held freely and the statement delivered along with the statement duly filled in with the data required.

**Related competencies :**

CEMT-5. Employ technical and economic criteria to select the most appropriate thermal equipment for a given application, dimension thermal equipment and facilities, and recognise and evaluate the newest technological applications in the production, transportation, distribution, storage and use of thermal energy.

CEMT-7. Analyse the performance of equipment and facilities in operation to carry out a diagnostic assessment of the use system and establish measures to improve their energy efficiency.

CT3. TEAMWORK: Being able to work in an interdisciplinary team, whether as a member or as a leader, with the aim of contributing to projects pragmatically and responsibly and making commitments in view of the resources that are available.

CT4. EFFECTIVE USE OF INFORMATION RESOURCES: Managing the acquisition, structuring, analysis and display of data and information in the chosen area of specialisation and critically assessing the results obtained.

**Full-or-part-time:** 2h

Theory classes: 2h

## GRADING SYSTEM

Written test: 35%

Work performed individually or in groups: 55%

Attendance and participation in guided works: 10%



## EXAMINATION RULES.

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There will be a final exam for the course. Students must complete both theoretical questions and problems related to the theoretical and practical content of the course. Reviews and/or claims regarding the examinations will be conducted according to the dates and times established in the academic calendar.

Work done individually or in groups along the course (TR).

Students must follow the instructions explained in class and contained in the file for the work that will be proposed to the student in relation to different teaching content of the course. As a result of these activities, students must submit a report (preferably in PDF format) to the professor, with the deadline to be fixed for each activity. The evaluation work will involve both its realisation and a possible defense.

Attendance and participation in classes and laboratories (AP).

The labs will be assessed both in their implementation and in the implementation of practical exercises that will be proposed; they can begin during the class schedule planned for this type of activity to be completed (if applicable) as an autonomous activity, following the instructions given in class. The results of practical exercises delivered to the teacher must follow the instructions given in class.

The evaluation of the practice will involve both its realisation and a possible defense.

Quality and performance of group work (TG).

The reports of practices and/or group work will be assessed individually on the oral defense if necessary or of any single group on the report.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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### Basic:

- Pope, S. B. Turbulent flows. Repr. with corr. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003. ISBN 0521591252.
- Berselli, L.C.; Iliescu, T.; Layton, W. J. Mathematics of large eddy simulation of turbulent flows [on line]. Berlin: Springer, cop. 2006 [Consultation: 07/09/2022]. Available on: <https://link-springer-com.recursos.biblioteca.upc.edu/book/10.1007/b137408>. ISBN 3540263160.
- Patankar, Suhas V. Numerical heat transfer and fluid flow [on line]. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1980 [Consultation: 30/06/2025]. Available on: <https://www-taylorfrancis-com.recursos.biblioteca.upc.edu/books/mono/10.1201/9781482234213/numerical-heat-transfer-fluid-flow-suhas-patankar>. ISBN 0891165223.
- Sagaut, Pierre. Large eddy simulation for incompressible flows : an introduction [on line]. 3rd ed. Berlin [etc.]: Springer, cop. 2006 [Consultation: 19/06/2025]. Available on: <https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.recursos.biblioteca.upc.edu/lib/upcatalunya-ebooks/detail.action?pq-origsite=primo&docID=304365>. ISBN 3540263446.

### Complementary:

- Saad, Yousef. Iterative methods for sparse linear systems. 2nd ed. Philadelphia: SIAM, cop. 2003. ISBN 0898715342.
- Foias, Ciprian [et al.]. Navier-Stokes equations and turbulence [on line]. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001 [Consultation: 12/09/2025]. Available on: <https://www-cambridge-org.recursos.biblioteca.upc.edu/core/books/navierstokes-equations-and-turbulence/F183F2E2116DF34CE771B3622469BF22>. ISBN 9780521064606.
- Frisch, Uriel. Turbulence : the legacy of A.N. Kolmogórov. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, cop. 1995. ISBN 0521457130.
- Wendt, John F. (ed.) ; Anderson, John D., Jr. ... [et al.]. Computational fluid dynamics : an introduction. 3rd ed. Berlin: Springer, cop. 2009. ISBN 9783540850557.

## RESOURCES

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### Audiovisual material:

- Transparencies, proposed problems to be used in class. Resource
- Notes made by the professor of the course. Resource