

CFD Untersuchung von im Ölbad rotierenden Zahnradern mit Fluent

*CFD investigation of rotating
gears in oil with Fluent*

Paul Illg, Alexander Berg, Dmitrij Neufeld

John Deere GmbH & Co. KG, Mannheim



JOHN DEERE

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John Deere – Today
Background & Objectives
Verification Procedure
Results
Conclusion

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John Deere Factory Mannheim and Bruchsal



Biggest John Deere factory outside of North America

- ▶ Producing AG equipment since 1867
- ▶ over 1.6 million tractors since 1921
- ▶ 2/3 of overall German tractor production
- ▶ 70 to 210 hp tractors (97/68/EC)
- ▶ 4,005 employees at the Mannheim site
- ▶ 1,375 employees at the Bruchsal site

6R Transmission - Power of Choice



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Background & Objectives

Model Order Reduction: From Tractor to Component Test Rig

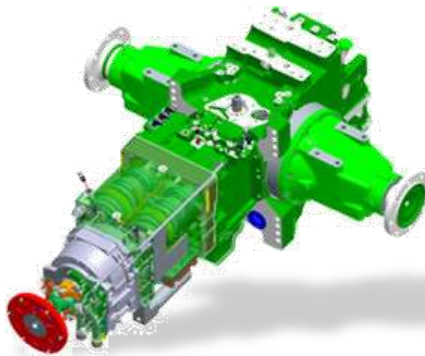
Tractor

Lots of different systems & circuits
→ Different focus & analysis goals



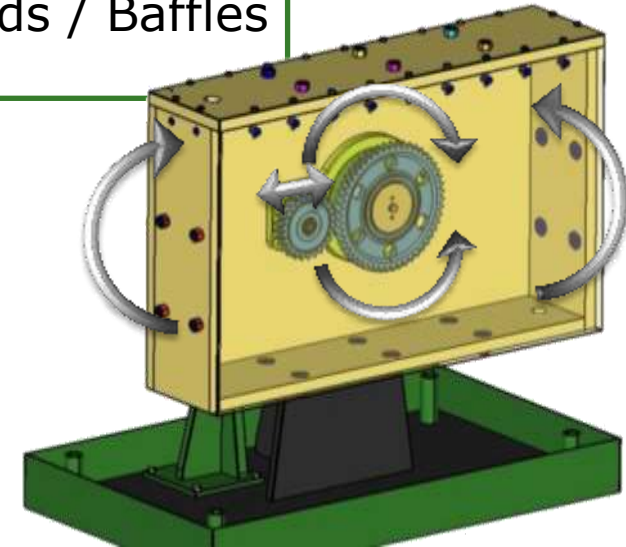
Gearbox

Lots of different
- gear pairs
- compartments
- subsystems
→ Limited access for detailed analysis



Test Rig (iGSL)

- Plexiglas box
- Gear interaction
- Splashing
- Losses
- Oil level & prop.
- Shields / Baffles



Background & Objectives

Model Order Reduction: From Tractor to Component Test Rig

Tractor

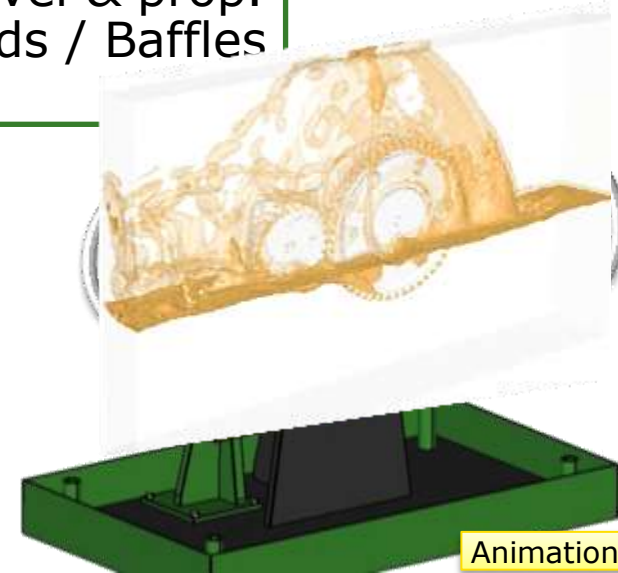
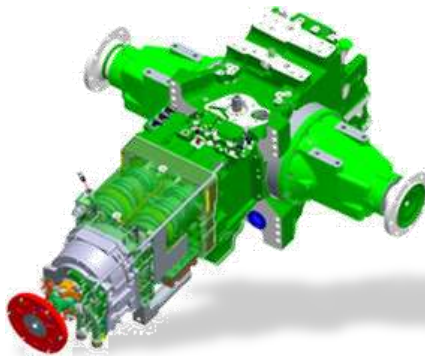
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Test Rig (iGSL)

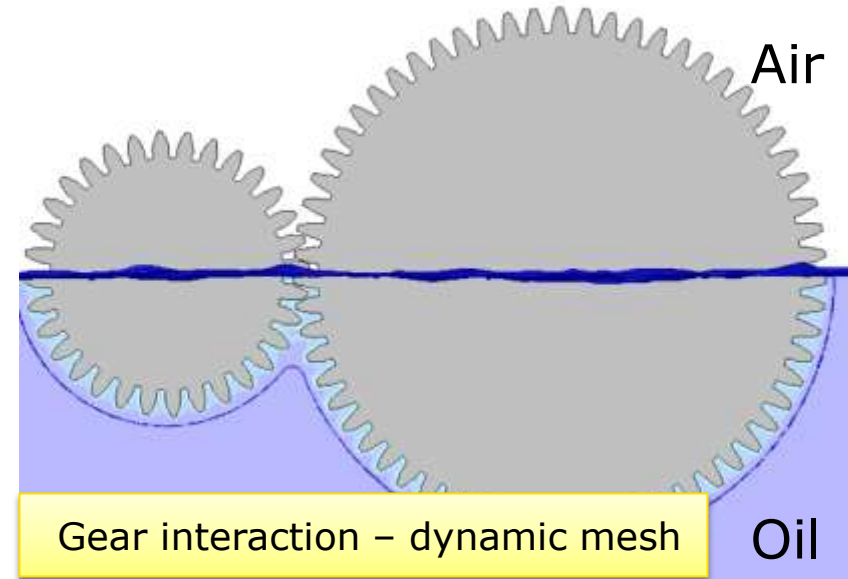
- Plexiglas box
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- Oil level & prop.
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Background & Objectives

Gearbox CFD Challenges

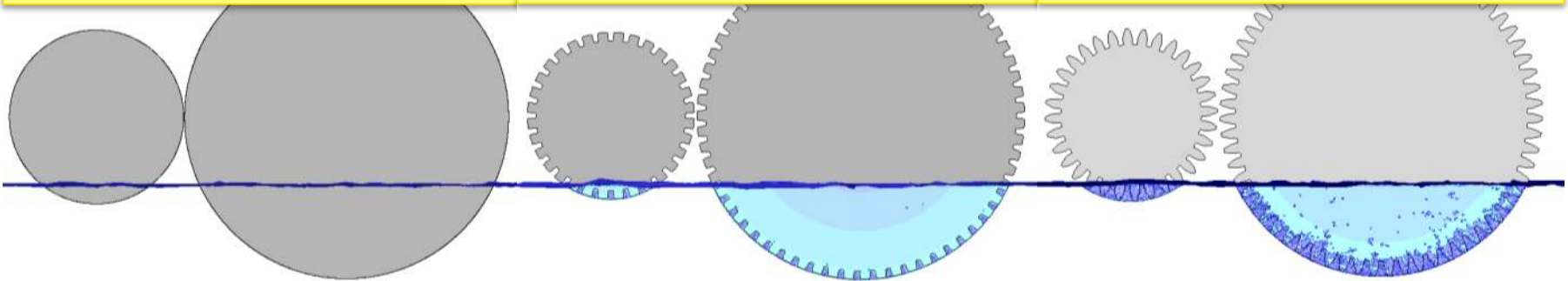
- Gear interaction
 - Full, No, Partially
- Numerical approaches
 - E.g. MRF, sliding & dynamic meshes
- Multiphase & free surface flow
 - Mesh & time step size
 - Numerical modelling
- Calculation time & Scalability



Rotating walls (w/o teeth)

Truncated gears

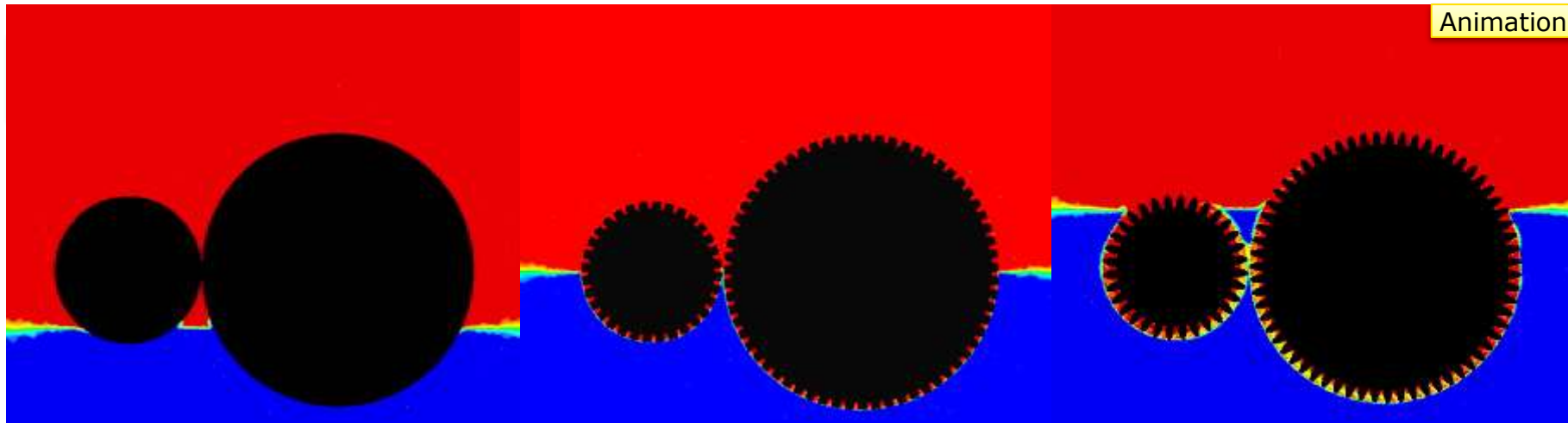
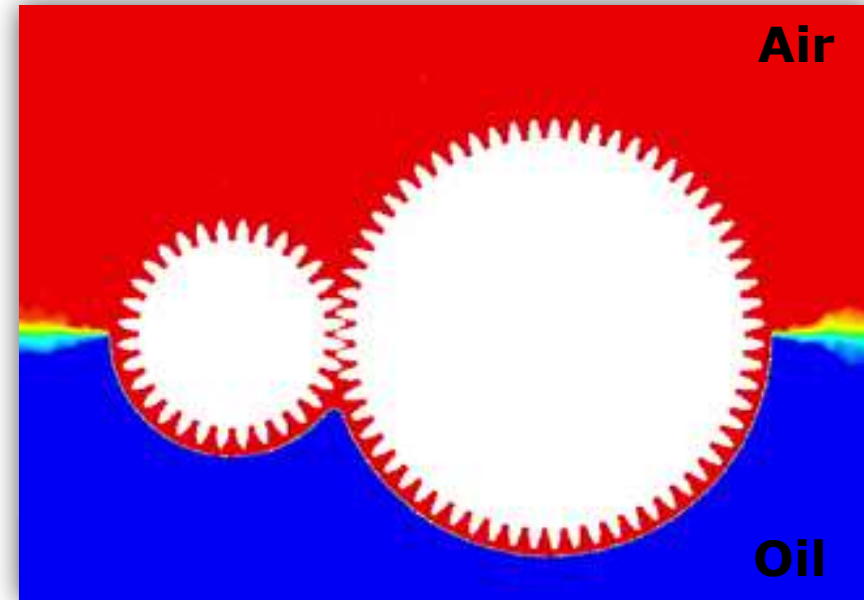
Shrunked gears



Background & Objectives

Gearbox CFD Challenges

- Gear interaction
 - Full, No, Partially
- Numerical approaches
 - E.g. MRF, sliding & dynamic meshes
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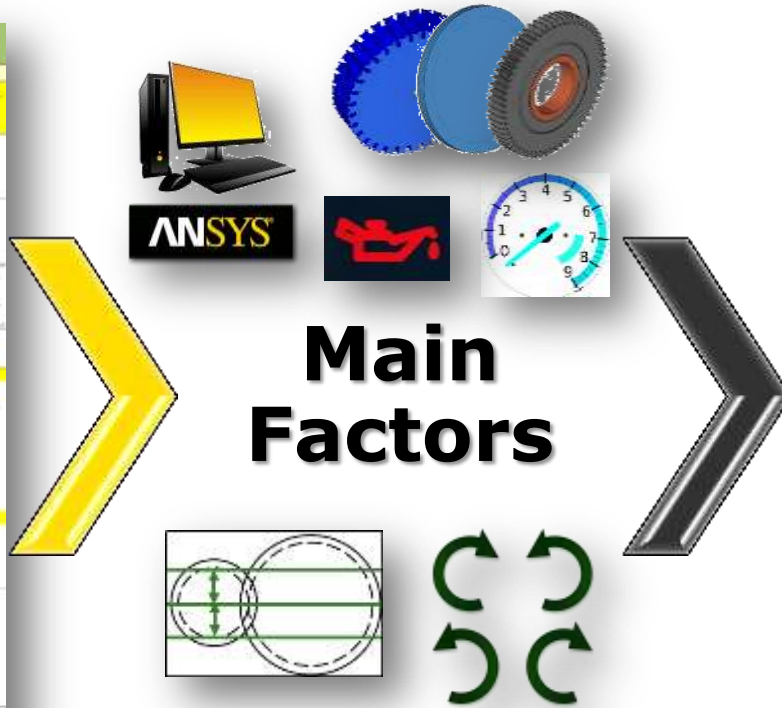
Conclusion

Verification Procedure

Identify Dominant Influence Factors



Brainstorming sessions,
team effort: collect
physical & numerical
factors

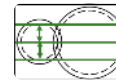


Personal screening
identify & select factors
with highest impact on
splashing & losses

Numerical screening
→ CFD meets DoE
→ which factor has
dominant influence on
which answer?

Verification Procedure

Solution Concept: Design of Experiments (DoE)



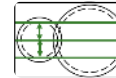
Most important 8 physical & numerical factors:

- DoE considering factor interaction:
 - 864 CFD runs
 - not feasible

CFD Run	Rotation	Gear model	Temperature	Oil level	Rot. Speed	Mesh size	Time step	Method
levels	L/R	disc trunc shrink	low mid high	low mid high	low mid high	coarse mid fine	coarse mid fine	fast stable accurate

Verification Procedure

Solution Concept: Design of Experiments (DoE)



Most important 8 physical & numerical factors:

- DoE considering factor interaction:
 - 864 CFD runs
 - not feasible
- Screening DoE:
 - Taguchi L18 Design
 - Full orthogonality
 - 18 Runs

Responses:

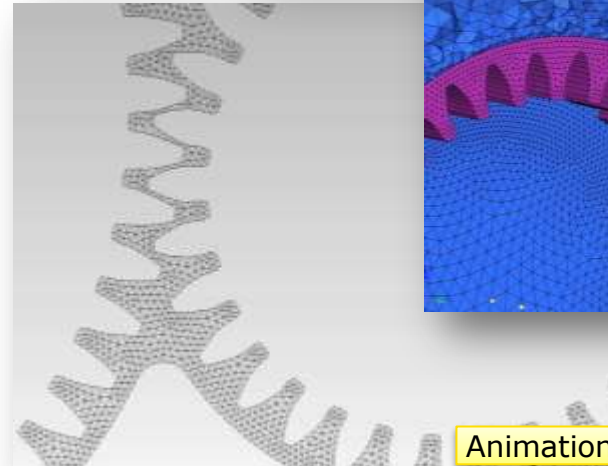
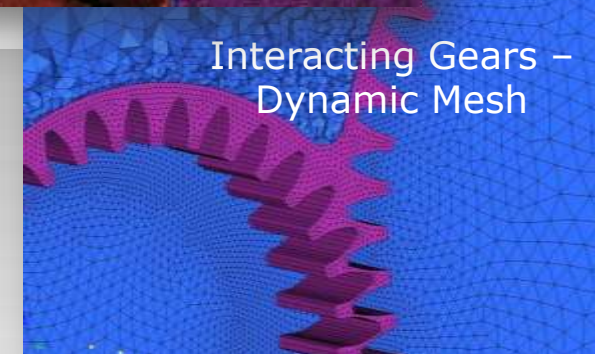
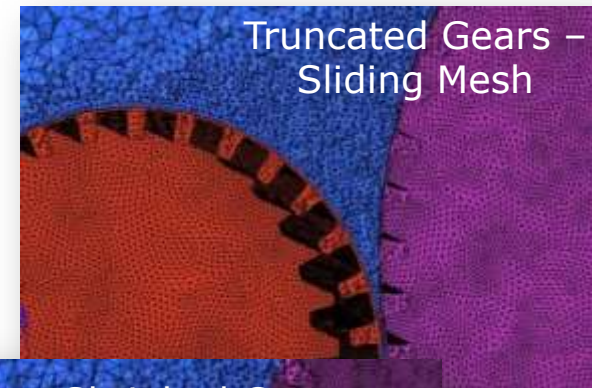
- Power losses
- Oil behavior
- Calculation time

CFD Run	Rotation	Gear model	Temperature	Oil level	Rot. Speed	Mesh size	Time step	Method
1			-1	-1	1	1	1	1
2			0	0	0	0	0	0
3	↻		1	1	-1	-1	-1	-1
4	↻		-1	-1	0	0	-1	-1
5	↻		0	0	-1	-1	1	1
6	↻		1	1	1	1	0	0
7			-1	0	-1	-1	0	-1
8			0	1	1	1	-1	1
9			1	-1	0	0	1	0
10			-1	1	0	0	0	1
11			0	-1	-1	-1	-1	0
12	↻		1	0	1	1	1	-1
13	↻		-1	0	1	1	-1	0
14	↻		0	1	0	0	1	-1
15	↻		1	-1	-1	-1	0	1
16			-1	1	-1	-1	1	0
17			0	-1	1	1	0	-1
18			1	0	0	0	-1	1

Verification Procedure

Numerical Modelling with ANSYS Fluent

- Meshing gear interaction:
 - Rotating sliding & dynamic mesh zones vs. static zones.
- Solver Settings:
 - Multiphase flow: Volume of Fluid (VoF)
 - Turbulent, incompressible, isothermal
 - 3 mesh sizes: 1,4~11 Mio Tets
 - 3 sets of solution methods: fast/accurate/stable
 - 3 time step sizes: CFL 0,2~14



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Background & Objectives

Verification Procedure

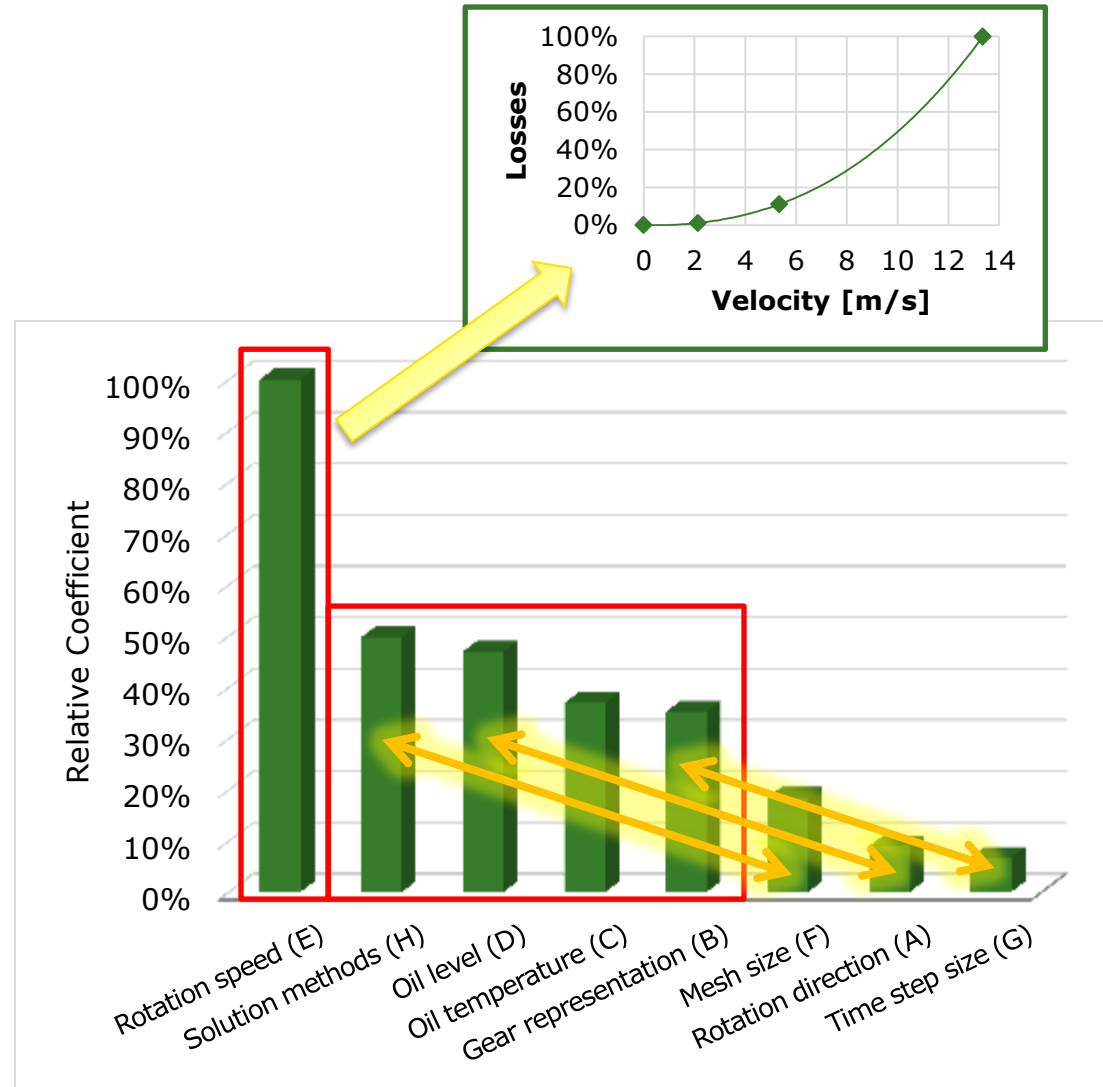
Results

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Results #1: Losses

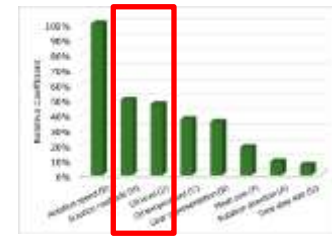
Pareto Chart: Dominant Factors

- Rot. speed dominant.
- Top 5 factors:
 - Physical & numerical "pairs".
- Findings:
 - Solution methods & gear representation more important than mesh size & time steps.
 - Oil level & temperature more important than rot. direction.



Results #1b: Losses Top3

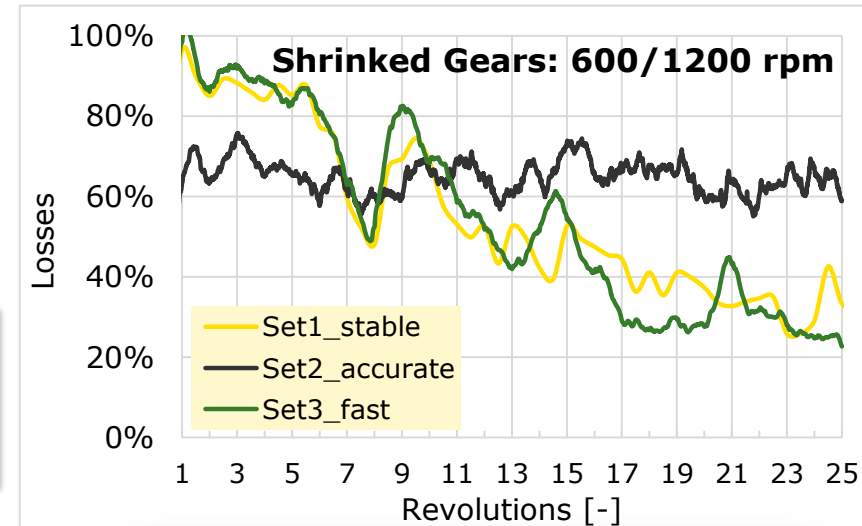
Solution Methods & Oil Level



– Solution Methods:

- Accurate method calculates slower but moment converges faster
- Methods focusing on calc. speed & stability → 50% lower losses

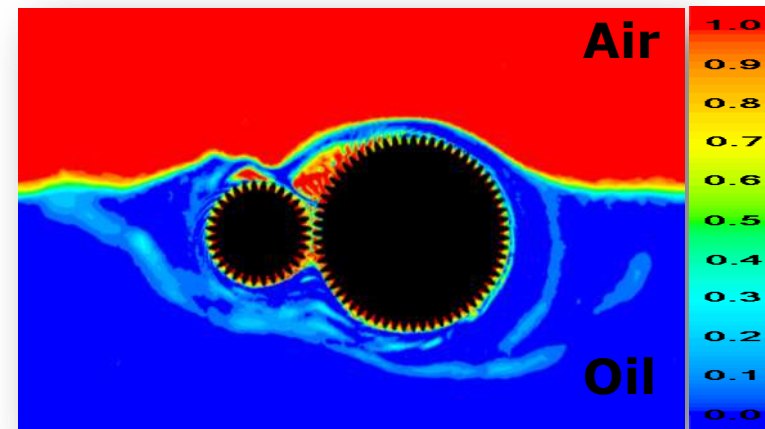
→ Accurate methods:
more conservative loss prediction
& overall faster converged solution.



– Oil Level:

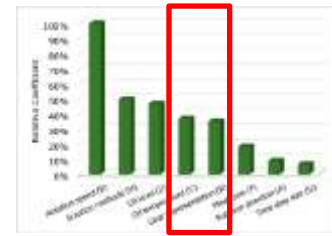
- Losses increasing with oil level
- Same influence level as num. settings

→ To decrease losses decrease oil level.

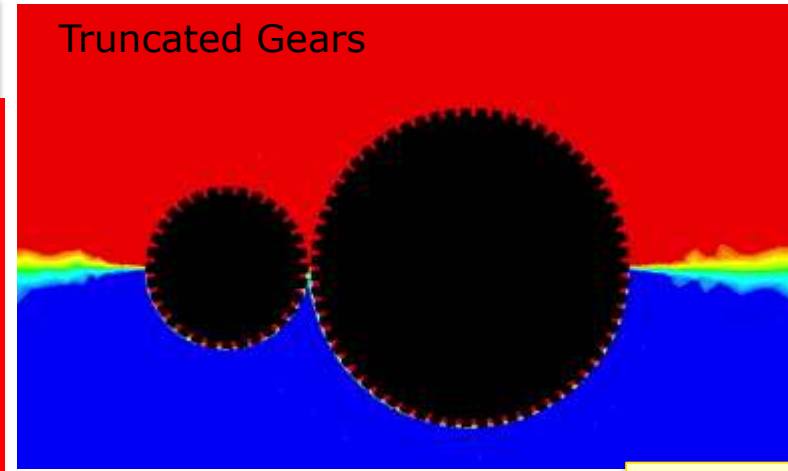
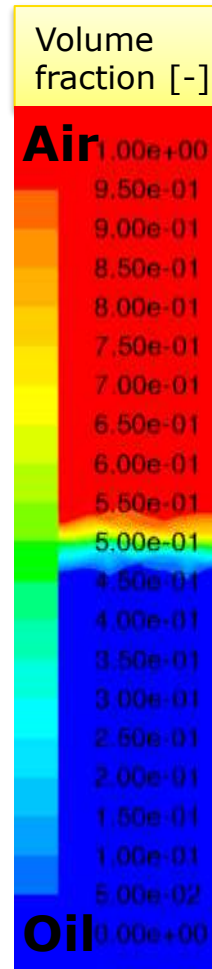


Results #1c: Losses Top5

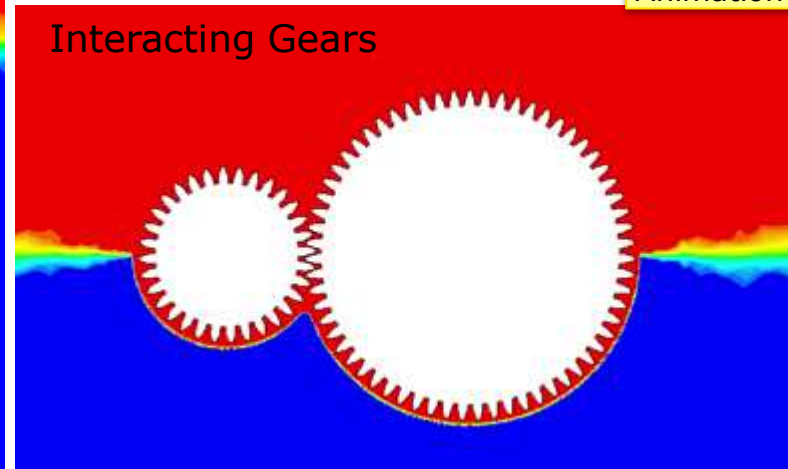
Gear Representation & Oil Temperature



- Gear representation:
 - Significant influence on losses
 - considering gear interaction:
 - Losses x6 ↑
 - Faster moment stabilization
- Oil temperature:
 - T_{oil} ↑
 - density & viscosity ↓
 - losses ↓

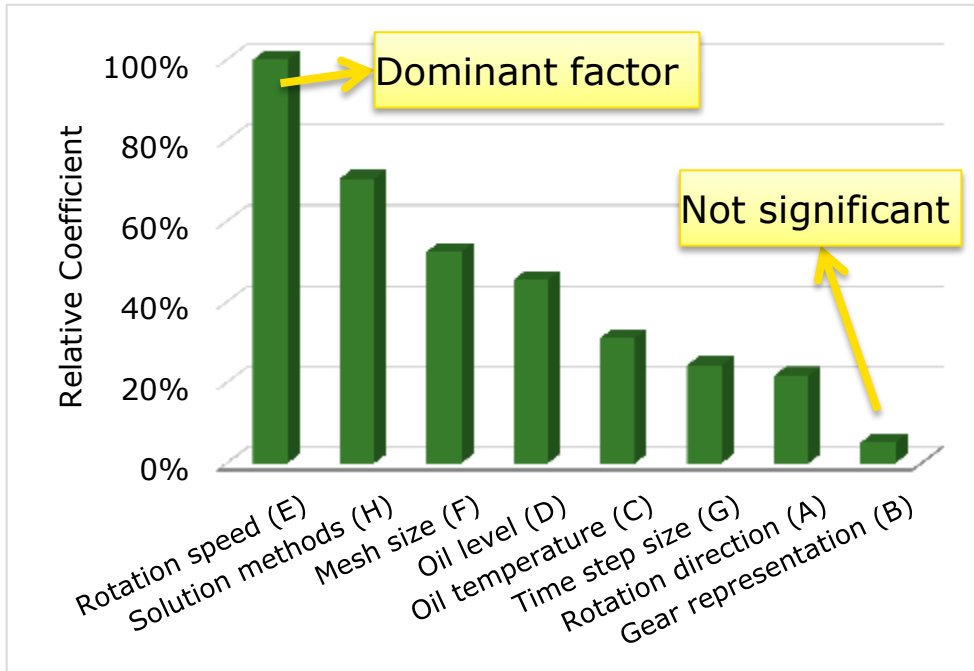


Animation

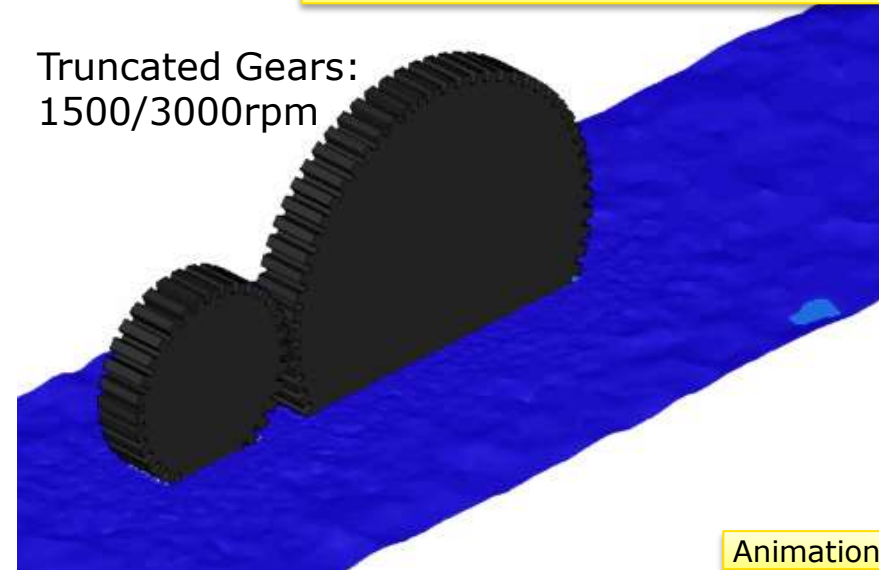
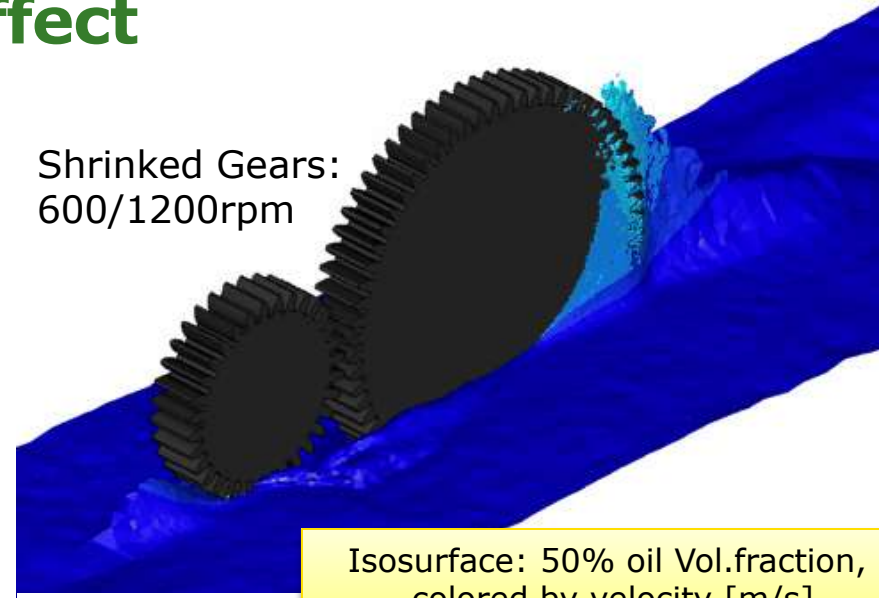


Results #2: Oil Pumping Effect

Pareto Chart: Oil Volume above Initial

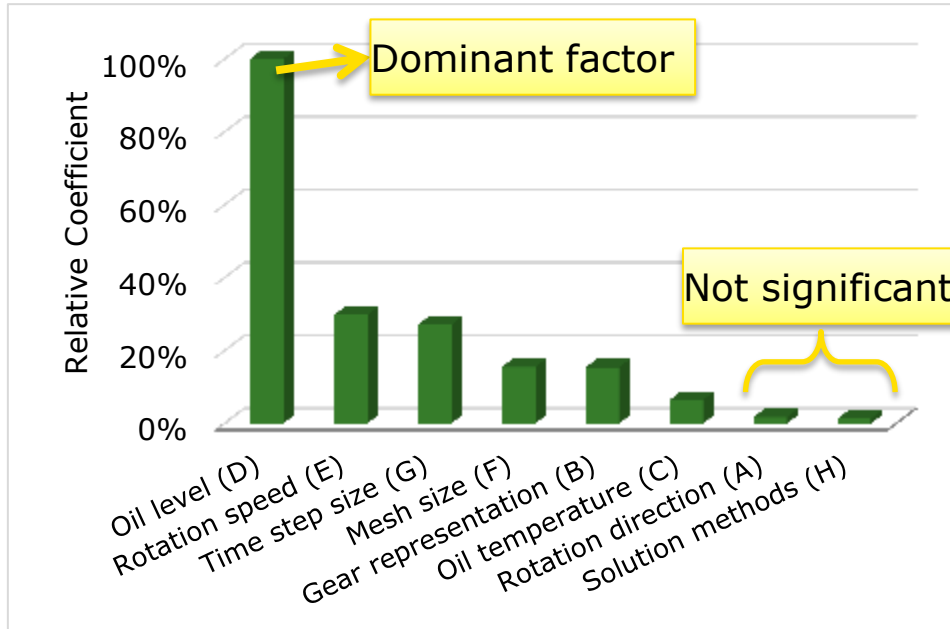


- Rotation speed dominant
- Solution methods:
 - Fast method → pumping effect ↑
- Gear representation:
 - Not significant for pumping effect



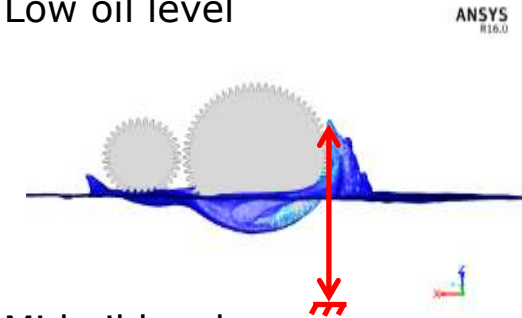
Results #3: Oil Splashing Intensity

Pareto Chart: Max Oil Height

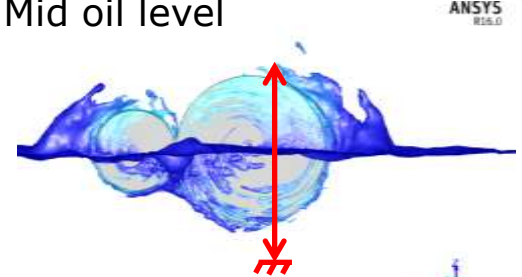


- Oil level dominant
 - Oil level reduction → less oil splashing
- Rot. speed & mesh size → Top3
- Rot. direction & solution methods
 - Not significant

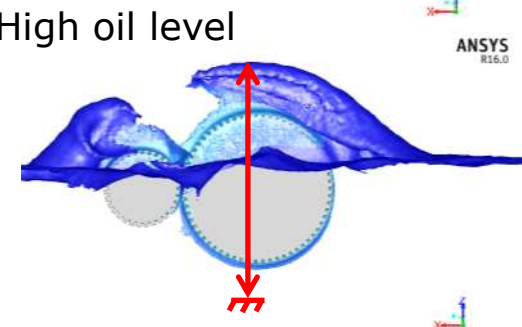
Low oil level



Mid oil level



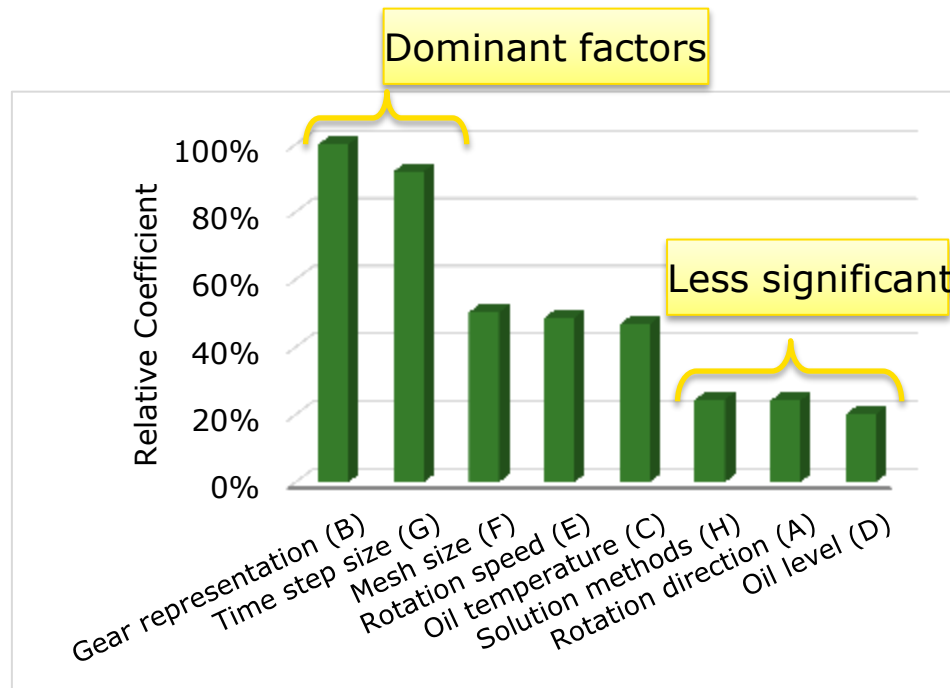
High oil level



Isosurface: 50% oil vol.fraction,
High speed: 1500/3000 rpm

Results #4: Calculation Time

Pareto Chart: Calculation Time per Simulated Second



DM: geom. limitation

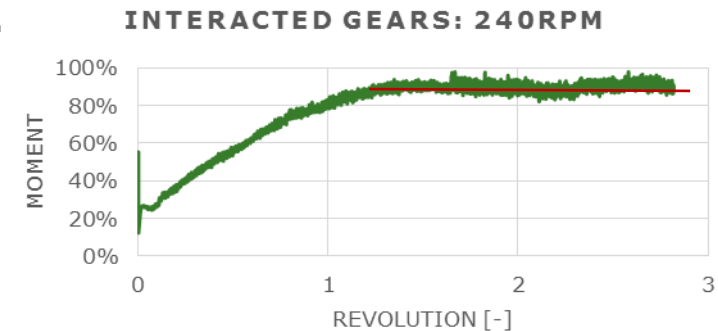
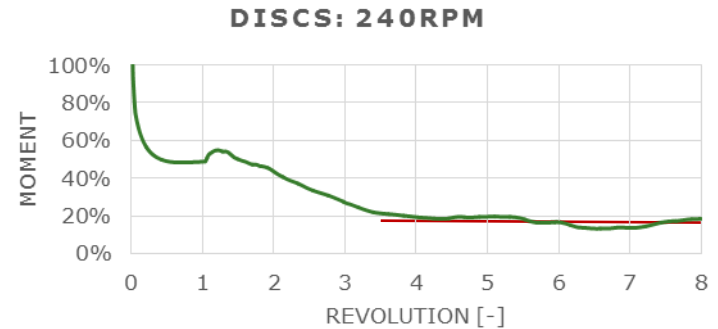
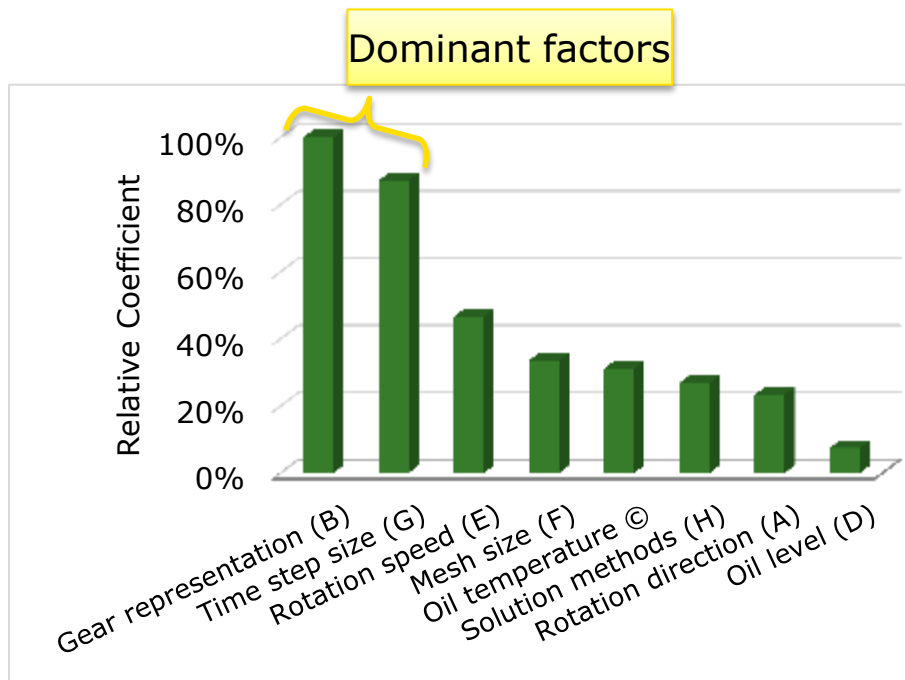


meshes @2 timesteps

- Gear representation & time step size → dominant factors
 - Dynamic mesh models need smallest time steps
→ Calc. time 30x higher compared to truncated gears
 - CFD cases w/o gear teeth accept biggest time steps
→ Rotating discs → fastest approach

Results #5: Calculation Time

Pareto Chart: Calculation Time until Moment Stabilization



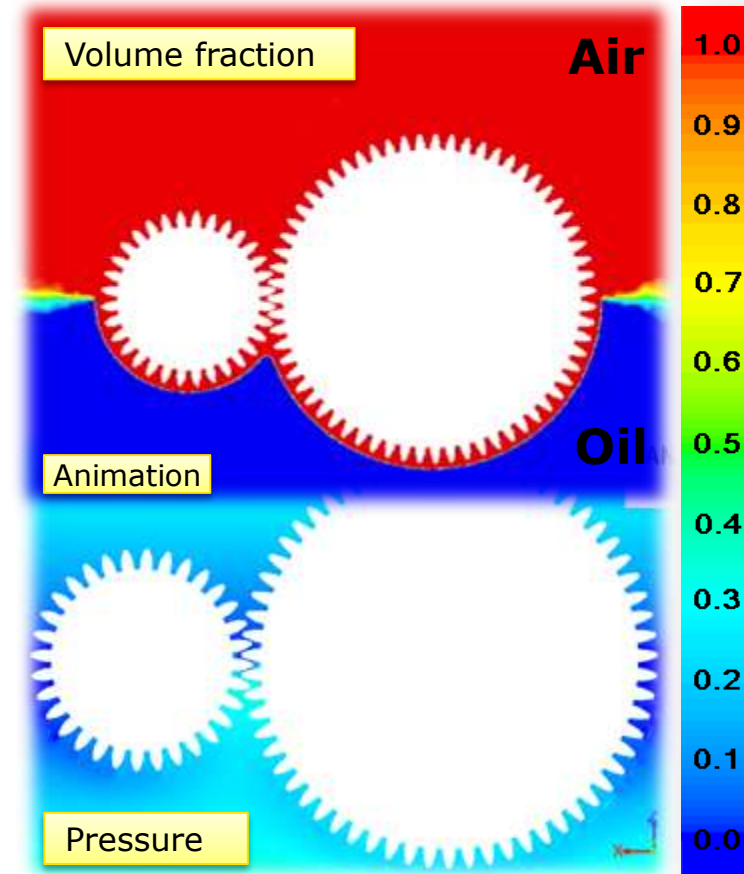
- DoE CFD runs: huge calc. time variation.
- Faster moment stabilization with more complex methods.
- Improvement of speedup & scalability desired!

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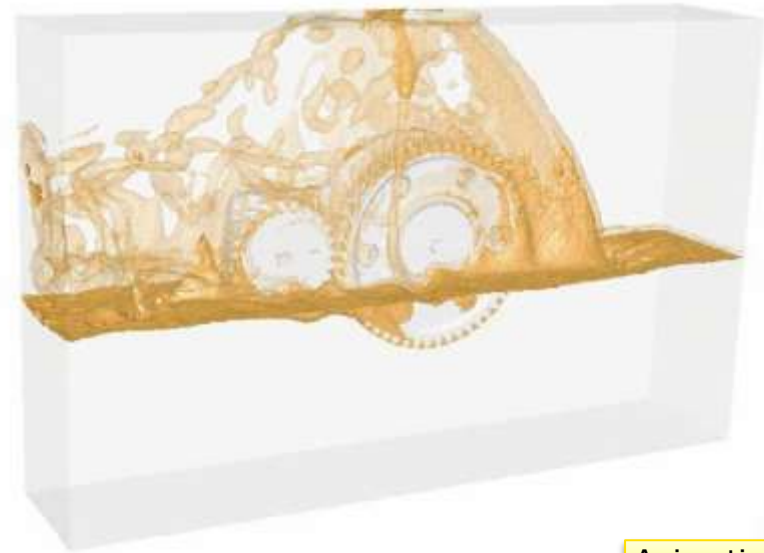
Conclusions

- Numerical models developed to use CFD in transient multiphase gearbox applications.
- Performed DoE to screen most important factors on oil splashing, losses & calculation time.
- Approaches with more physics and higher order solution methods are:
 - More compute intensive, but show a faster moment stabilization.
 - Show more realistic effects and are closer to literature results.
- Early design stages with simplified gears, detailed analysis needs more physics.



Outlook

- Test rig investigations to receive known accuracy or deviation of stronger idealized models.
- Further investigations with numerical methods needed:
 - Turbulence models & near wall treatment with boundary layers
 - Surface tension models
- Speedup & Scalability improvements desired.
- Investigation of the interaction between the influencing factors.
- ANSYS Support extremely valuable in case of new methodology or any issues! Thank you!



Animation



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