

Future aircraft concepts and Artificial Intelligence in aeronautics

By Xavier Dutertre

Training Agenda – 4 Days

- **Day 1**
 - **Introduction to future aircraft concepts and Artificial Intelligence in aeronautics**
- **Day 2**
 - Innovative aircraft concepts
- **Day 3**
 - MBSE (Model-based systems engineering)
- **Day 4**
 - Composites, advanced test technologies, aerodynamic shape optimization and multidisciplinary optimization methods

Day 1 – New aircraft concepts and AI in ero

Introduction : New aircraft concepts

- Brief historical review of aircraft shapes
- Aircraft's design spaces
- Presentation of new types of aircrafts

Artificial Intelligence in aeronautics

- Definition and state of the art of AI in aeronautics
- Applications of IA in aeronautics
- Example of AI applications
 - Aircraft design
 - Flight path optimization
 - Industrial supply chain performance

AVIC aircrafts



Commercial aircrafts

Transports

Fighters

Trainers



L15
L15A is a new fighter pilot tr



FTC-2000
The FTC-200 features attr: A-5 aircrafts.



K8W
K8W is a mul



FC-1 / JF-17
This new-generation I Pakistan to meet the



J-10CE
J-10CE is an all-weather single engine, derived



AMF
The AMF is a fifth generation market. With excellen



JH-7E
JH-7E is a dual seat, capable of long-range



Y-9E
Y-9E is a medium-range an engines. It is equipped with



Y-8F200WB
Y-8F200WB is currently the Y8 series aircraft. It has a n



Y-12E
The Y-12E is a twin-engine version of the proven Y12-I single tail and non-retractat



Y-12F
The Y-12F is the latest dev wing, unpressurized cabin, retractable landing gear, single ver.....



MA60/600
accommodates two pilots and the cabin can seat up to 60 passengers. MA600/MA600 aircraft is an improved version of the MA60. The aircraft is equipped with new avionics



MA60/600
MA600 aircraft is an improved version of the MA60. The aircraft is equipped with new avionics, improved passenger cabin and engines with increased thrust compared to MA60..... [learn more](#)



MA700
The MA700 is a new generation of turboprop regional aircraft with a high-wing, T-shape tail, wing-hanged twin engines, composite propellers and tricycle landing gear configuration. It is a two-pilot aircraft with a standard cabin layout of 78 seats..... [learn more](#)



MA60
The MA60 is a two-pilot aircraft carrying 52-56 passengers. The main avionics are from world-famous suppliers and it is equipped with two PW-127J turboprop engines of Pratt & Whitney Canada and 247F-3 propellers of Hamilton Sundstrand of US. [learn more](#)

Commercial aircrafts - Example of market studies

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COMMERCIAL MARKET OUTLOOK
2021-2040

Source internet Boeing



20-Year Market Demand



43,610
Global Deliveries

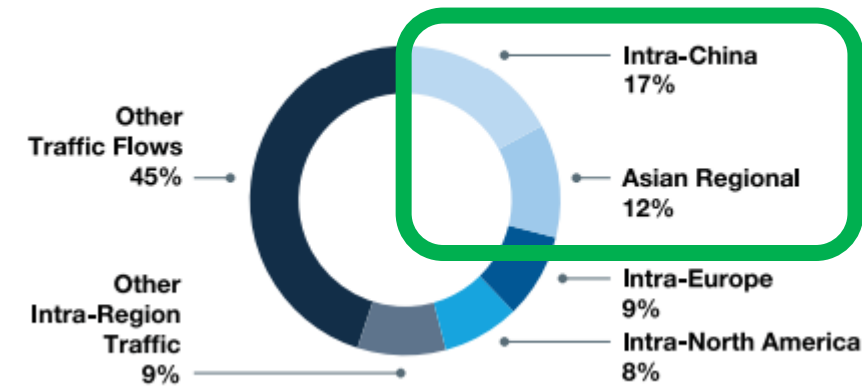
3.1% Fleet Growth | 2.7% GDP Growth

4.0% Traffic Growth | 49,405 2040 Fleet

2.1M New Personnel | \$9,540B Services Market Value



Forecast shares of traffic growth, by flow



>1/4 of commercial aircraft deliveries are planned in Asia

*Does not include China

Brief historical aircrafts review

#Flying1913



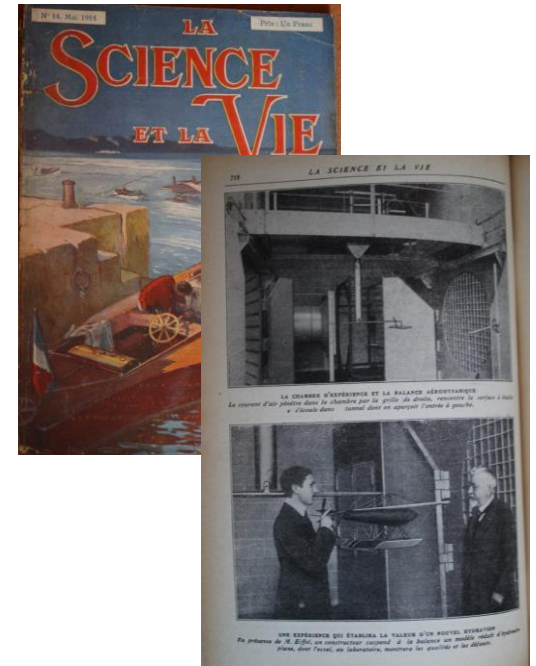
Ing. Blériot
Cable launch



Single wing/body



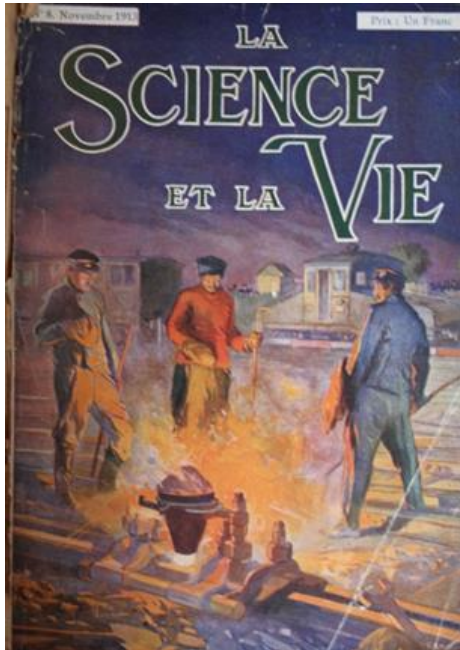
No wing shrouds



Ing Eiffel
Wind Tunnel

Before WW1, progress are made on :
engine power, aerodynamic shapes, wind tunnel understanding

#Flying1913 – Single body shape



Notre figure représente le monocoque de l'ingénieur Béchereau en plein vol. Cet appareil est remarquable non seulement parce qu'il a permis à Prévost de parcourir 200 kilomètres en moins d'une heure, mais encore parce qu'il se distingue nettement de tous les types d'aéroplanes établis jusqu'alors, tant par son mode de construction que par son aspect extérieur.

Single wing/body at 200km/hour

#Flying1943 – After WW1 and WW2

Source image : Wikipedia

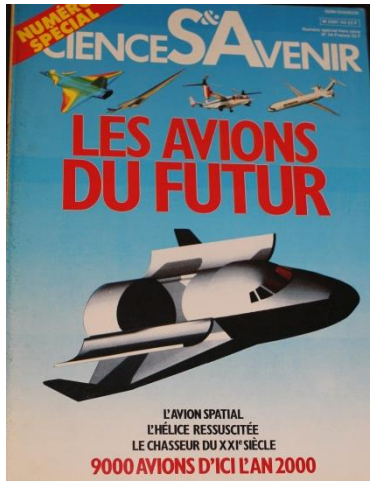
Lockheed L-1649 Constellation « Starliner » of Trans World Airlines (TWA)



- 4 engines (but called « best 3 engines plane »)
- 3 Vertical drift planes (for storage height)
- Fuselage is not cylindrical
- Hydraulic assisted commands
- Max speed 550km/h, cruise speed 480 km/h

Commercial aviation is starting after WW2

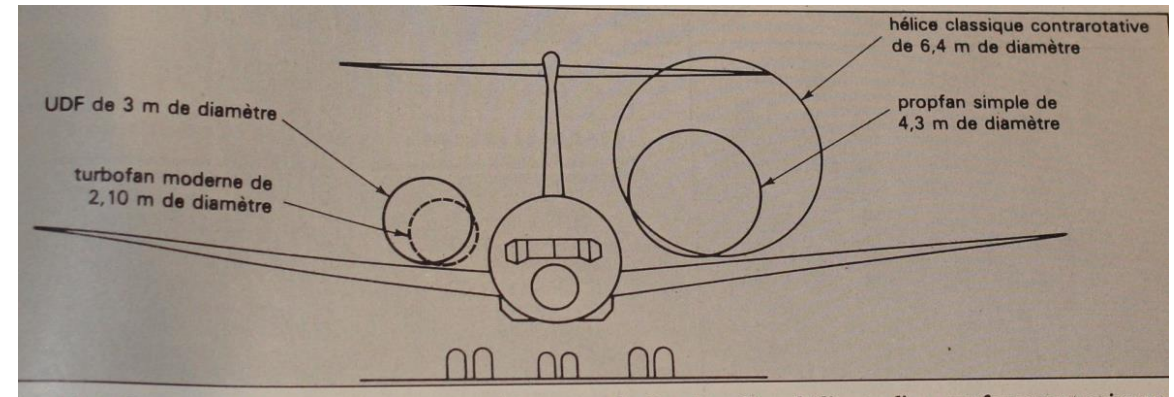
#Flying1983



Wings, engines and stabilizers places ?



Open rotors ?



Engines places ?

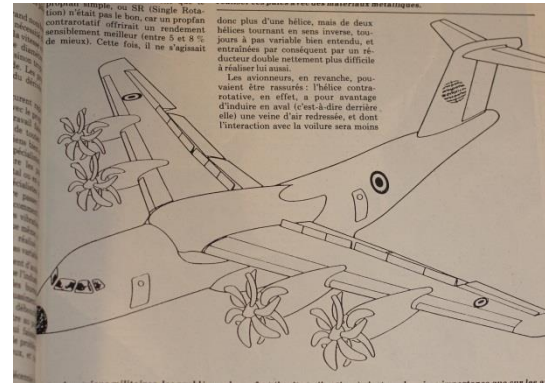
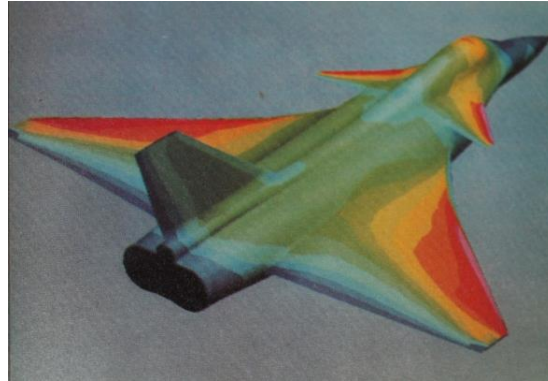
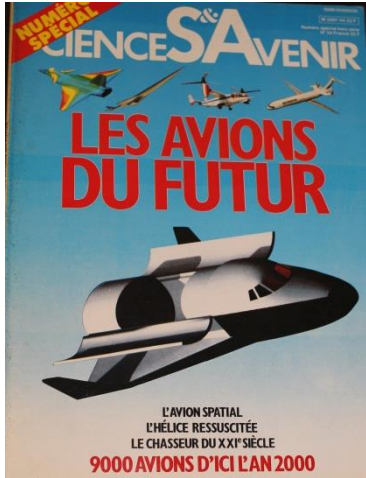
Those studies are still under investigation, today in 2020+



Radical Configuration Flight Test Demonstrator



#Flying1983



- Development of numerical design tools (CATIA by Dassault System)
- Aircraft family (cockpit ergonomics)

Numerical simulation tools have been and still are a revolution in aircraft design

#Flying2019

A320 neo



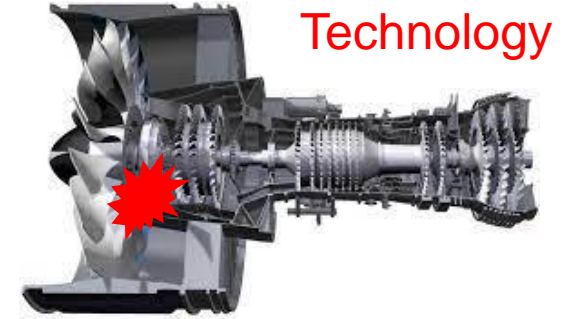
A350



A380



PW1000G



B737 max



B787



A400m



DA Falcon 5X / Silvercrest



Shape problem

Dev. engine

Even today, aircraft and engines development is still hazardous for large players

#Flying2019

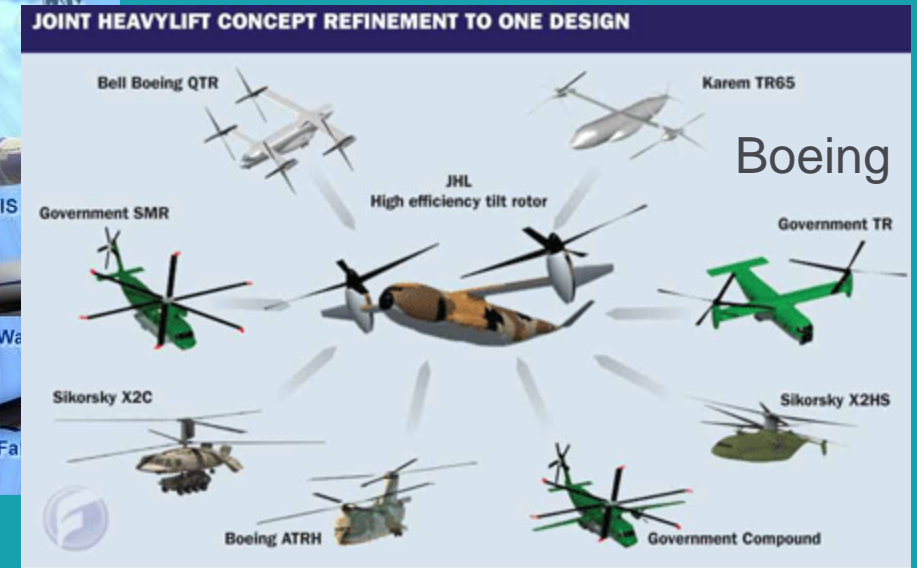
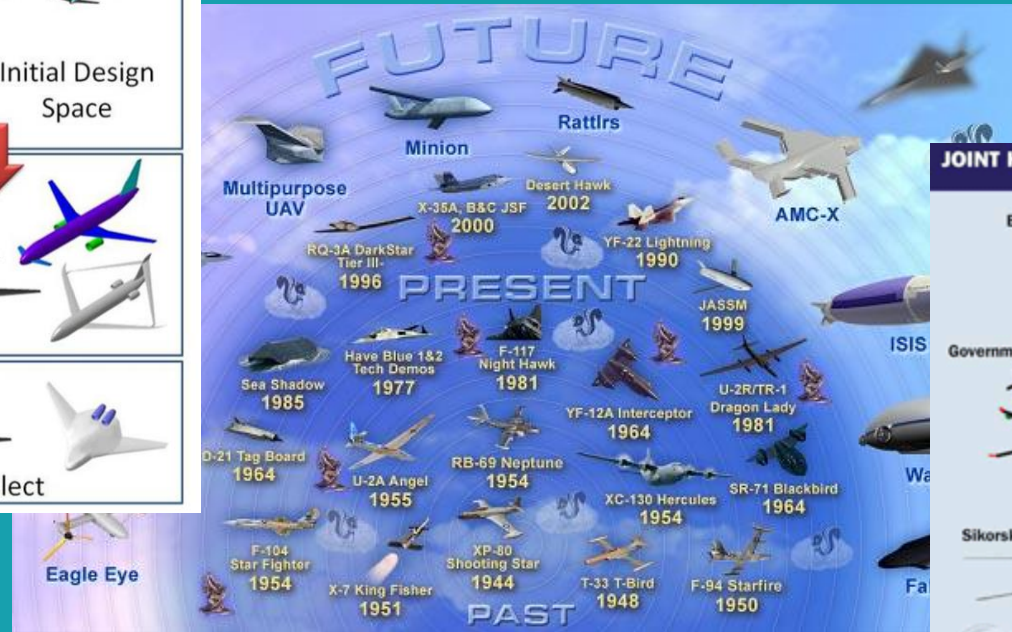
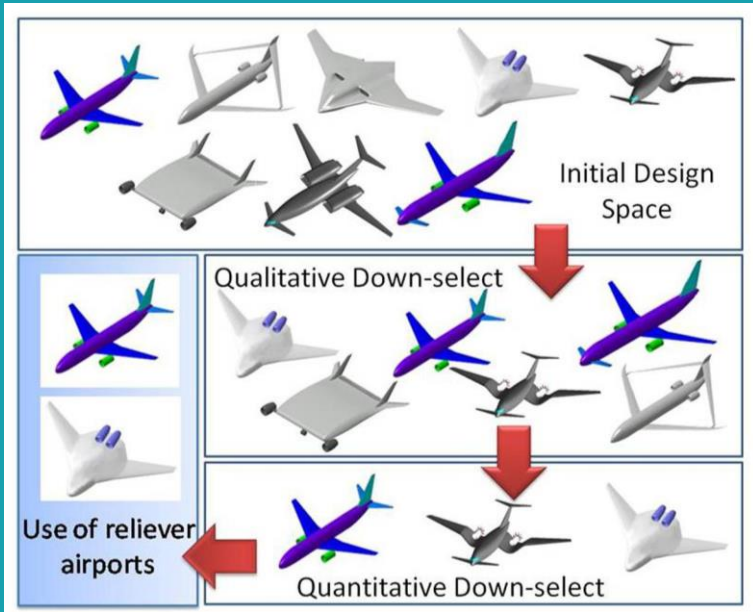


What is an aircraft today or in the future ?

- 5% of the aircraft value is final assembly
- 35% of the total flight cost by hour are engines and consumption

What is the value for passengers, where is the added-value ?

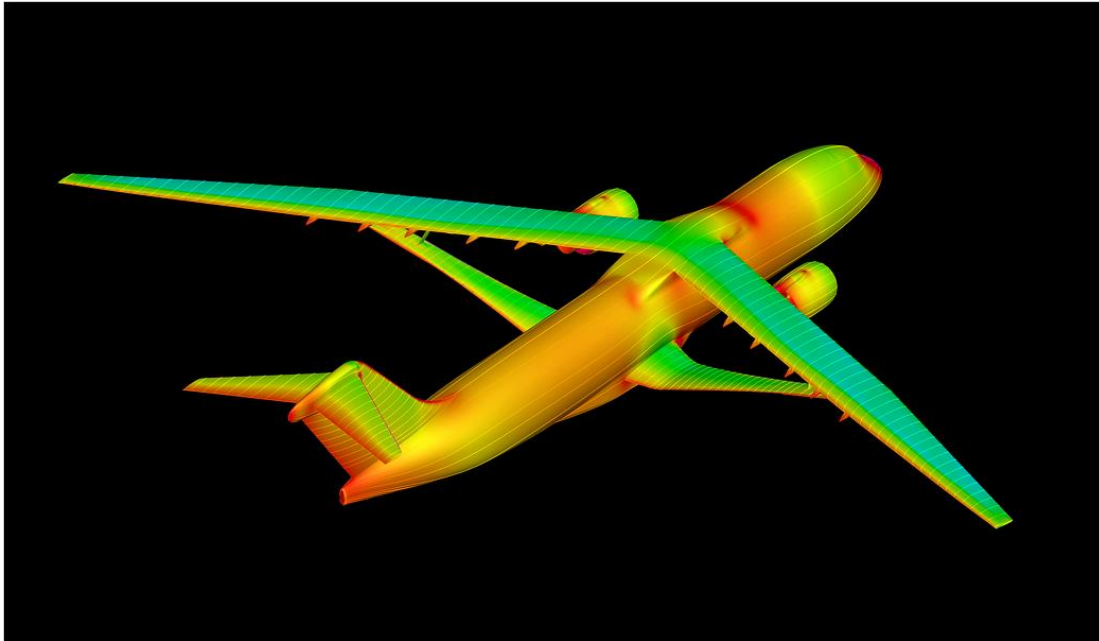
Design space for future aircraft



Nasa

Most studies are made on exotic shapes
 Most aircrafts are delivered within regional and single aisle categories

#Flying2050 ?

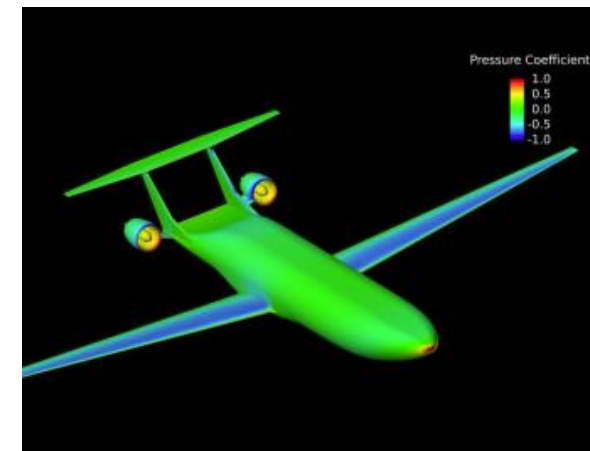


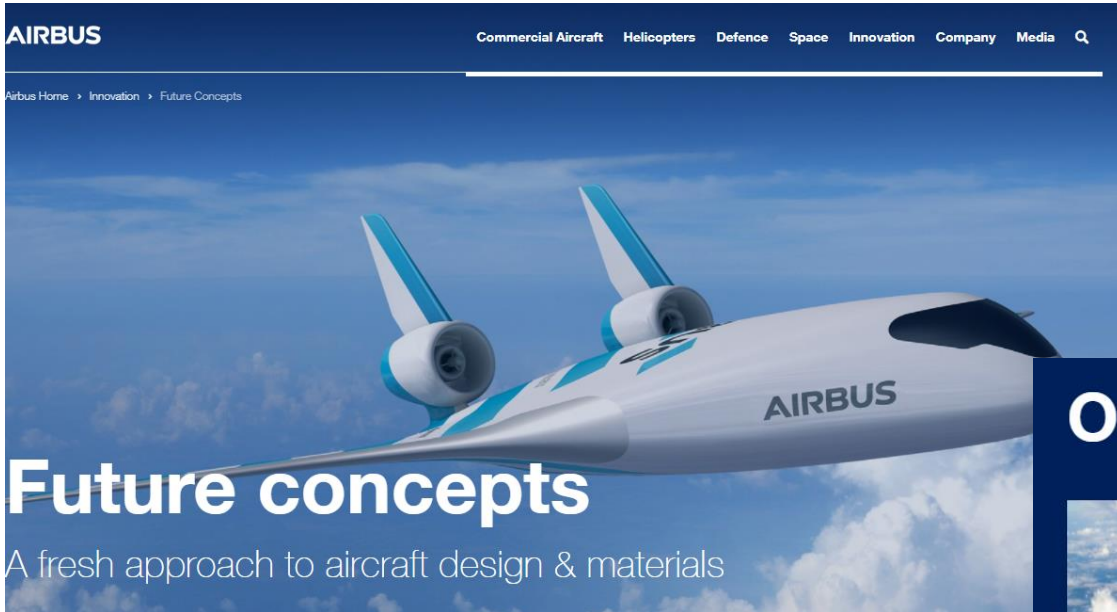
Artist illustration of the X-59 Quiet SuperSonic
(Lockheed Martin)

#Flying2050 ?



© AIRBUS S.A.S. 2009 - COMPUTER RENDERING BY PAGON - ORLANDO





AIRBUS

Our disruptive design projects



MAVERIC

This game-changing "blended wing body" design could generate up to 20% less fuel burn compared to current single-aisle models with the same engine. The exceptionally spacious layout also opens up the design space, enabling the possible integration of various other types of propulsion systems.



Racer

This helicopter demonstrator's advanced design means it will be 10-15% more efficient than standard helicopters. It has the potential to reach speeds of 400 Km/h, which is significantly faster than standard helicopters.



Future Combat Air System (FCAS)

This European defence programme aims to connect the next-generation fighter aircraft to other aerial vehicles through a system-of-systems approach.

Airbus AI

ASTARTES

The Air Superiority Tactical Assistance Real Time Execution System is an Artificial Intelligence (AI) project that aims to digitise the human-level experience to support operators with their tactical coordination tasks in the context of the Future Combat Air System (FCAS).

Autonomous flight

Computer vision and machine-learning technologies based on AI are critical to enabling self-piloted commercial aircraft to take off and land, and to navigate and detect ground obstacles autonomously.

CIMON

This AI-based robotic assistant for astronauts aboard the International Space Station is equipped with cameras, sensors and microphones to see, hear, process and display information, as well as speak and fly.

Earth observation

Imagery provided by advanced aerospace technologies – such as high-resolution satellites and drones within an AI environment – can generate customised analyses for applications relating to catastrophe response and damage assessment.

Factory of the Future

This DDMS project aims to standardise and streamline software AI tools used for enterprise resource planning to move from sequential to co-developmental production processes.

Future Combat Air System (FCAS)

This European defence programme aims to connect the next-generation fighter aircraft to other aerial vehicles through a system-of-systems approach that is enabled by advanced analytics and AI.

Skywise

Our open-based data platform leverages AI to analyse disparate data sources that offer powerful new insights benefitting the entire aviation industry.

Unmanned Traffic Management

When sharing our airspace, today's unmanned aerial vehicles, such as drones, exchange vast amounts of mission-critical information – all of which AI can filter, classify and merge.

Urban Air Mobility

Sense-and-avoid technology, built on AI, leverages mission-critical data to enable self-piloting future air mobility vehicles to predict and react to unforeseen scenarios.

Artificial intelligence

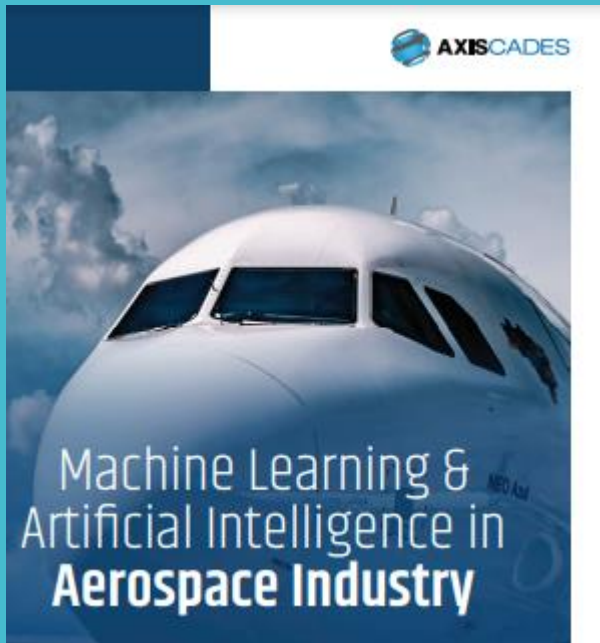
Capitalising on the value of data



Artificial intelligence in aeronautics

Studies of IA usage in aeronautics

<https://www.axiscades.com/blog-resources/whitepaper/Aerospace-whitepaper.pdf>



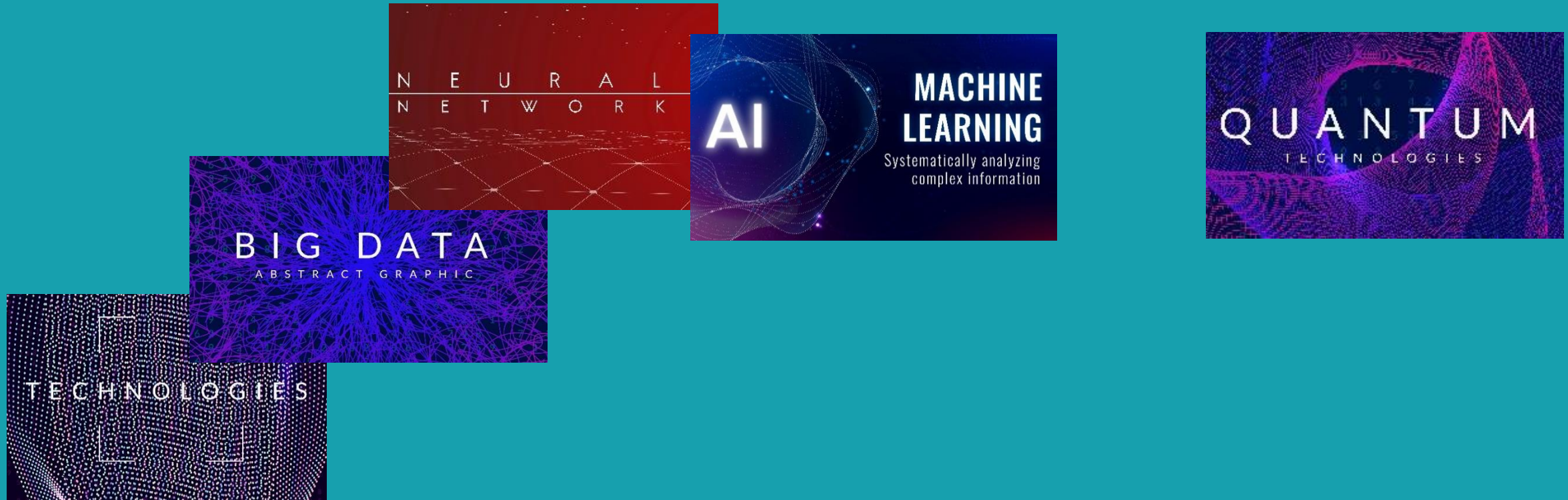
Here are the top areas that AI is being used by aerospace manufacturers today:

- Predictive Maintenance
- Optimized flight performance
- Generative design
- Efficient supply chain management
- Improved quality control
- Training

Today most usages are Big Data problems



Why aeronautics is not yet using IA ?

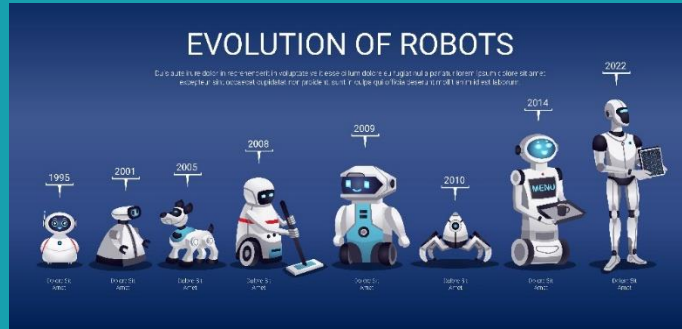


In aeronautics, most algorithms have to be **determinist**
To achive high level of **reliability** and repeatability

Robots and IA - State of the art on the ground



Urban Air Mobility



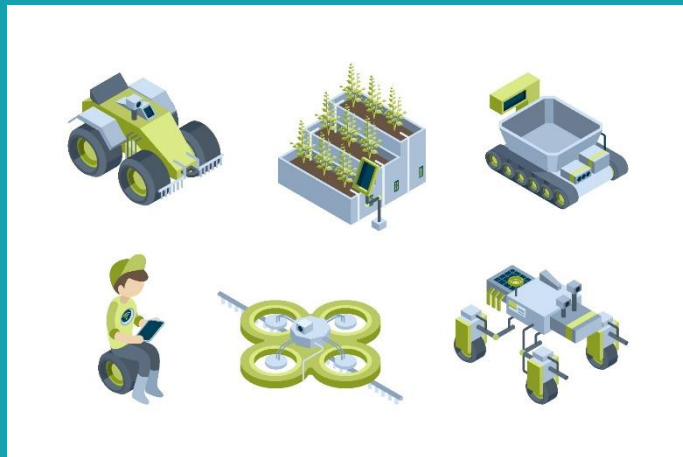
Daily life robots



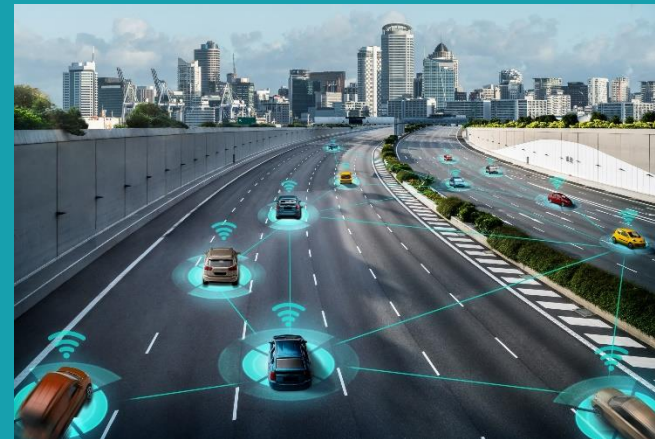
Transportation



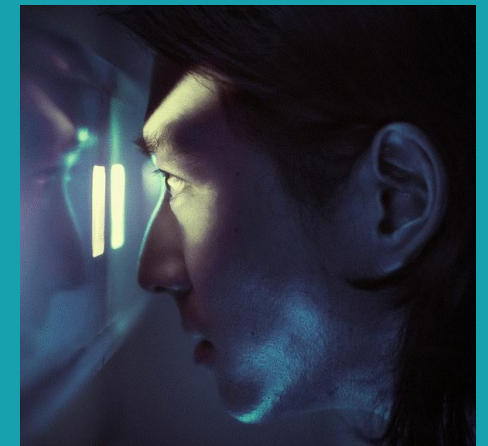
Deliveries



Farming automation

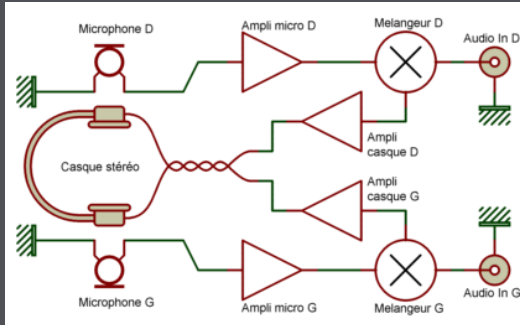


Automotive industry



Security

IA usages



Noise cancelling headphone

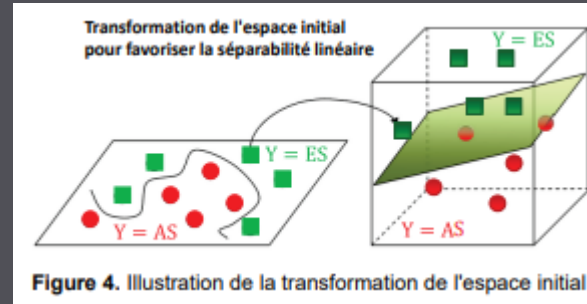


Figure 4. Illustration de la transformation de l'espace initial



Data sorting

Air traffic management



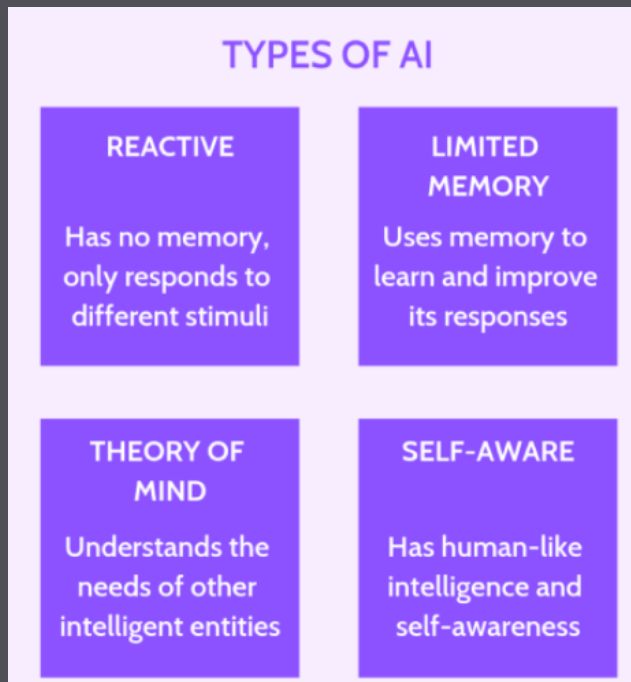
Airplane inspection



Levels of AI

Forbes

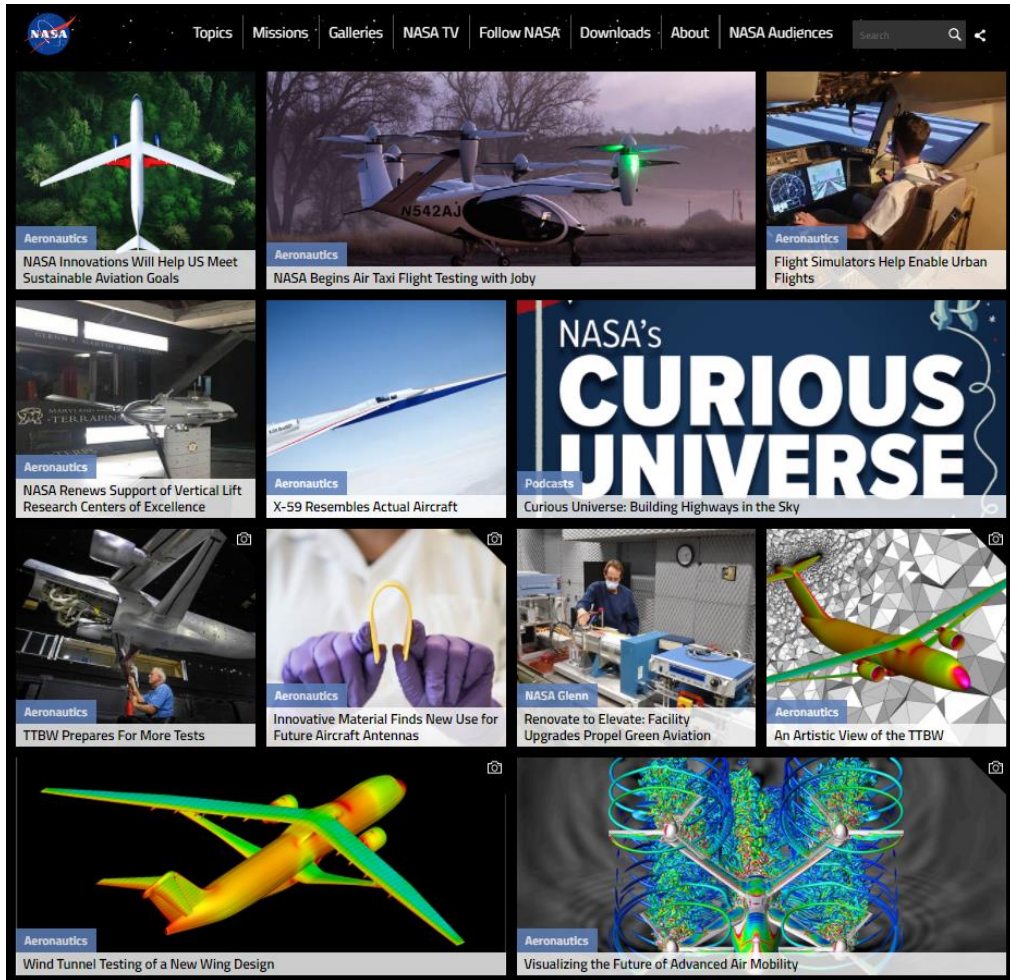
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/cognitiveworld/2019/06/19/7-types-of-artificial-intelligence/?sh=3d23a43e233e>



1. **Reactive Machines**
2. **Limited Memory**
3. **Theory of Mind**
4. **Self-aware**
5. **Artificial Narrow Intelligence (ANI)**
6. **Artificial General Intelligence (AGI)**
7. **Artificial Superintelligence (ASI)**

Nasa future aircraft technologies

<https://www.nasa.gov/subject/7565/future-aircraft/>



Your pilot is a robot !



Two human pilots



Autonomous robot



0 human pilots on board



Auto-pilot

COBOT

No cockpit ?



Constrains are failure modes :
human errors, mission changes, aircraft maintenance issues (including engines)

1 pilot for a swarm of aircrafts ?



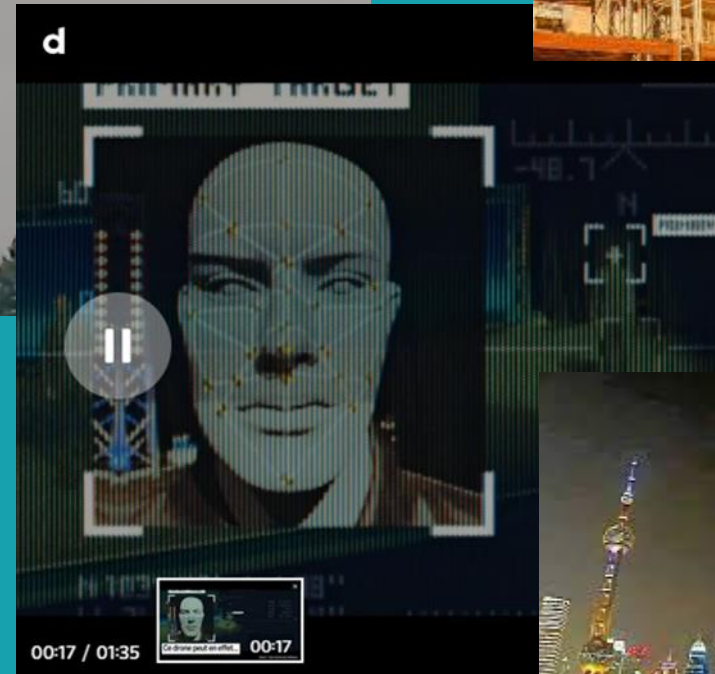
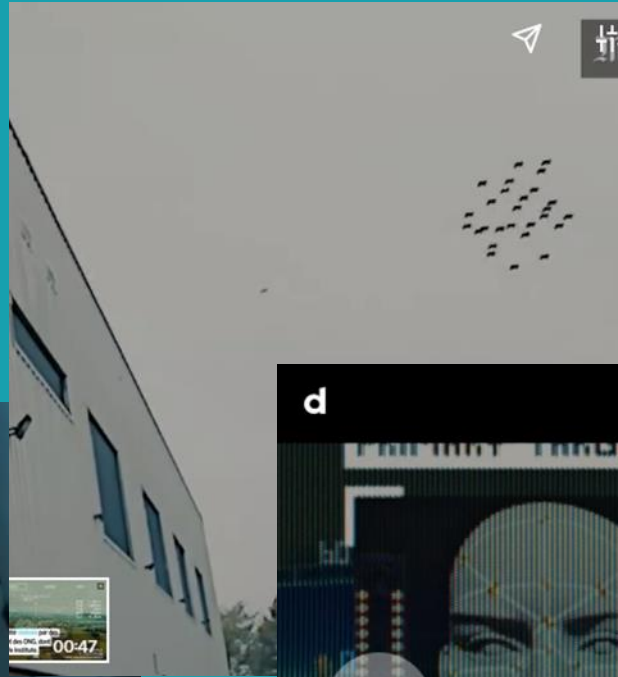
What is an aircraft ?

Technologies and algorithms are everywhere from development, production, to final usage

Drones swarm



https://www.ted.com/talks/pw_singer_on_robots_of_war/transcript?awesm=on.ted.com_Slavin&language=fr



Drones with embarked IA are already used, and usages will expand

How IA Hardware will improve

A simple neural network

Neural network Algorithm
Are mostly coded with matrix
-> costly in calculation steps

Intel Nervana NNP
(Neural Network Processor)



IA will improve with dedicated hardware architecture (NNP)

Navier Stokes Equation – Millenium problem

<https://www.claymath.org/millennium-problems/navier%E2%80%93stokes-equation>

A fundamental problem in analysis is to decide whether such smooth, physically reasonable solutions exist for the Navier–Stokes equations. To give reasonable leeway to solvers while retaining the spirit of the problem, the Clay Mathematics Institute has adopted the following four statements:

- (A) **Existence and smoothness of solutions in three dimensions**
 $n = 3$. Let $u^o(x)$ be any smooth divergence-free vector field on \mathbb{R}^3 . Take $f(x, t)$ to be identically zero on $\mathbb{R}^3 \times [0, \infty)$ that satisfy (1), (2), (3), (6), (7) on $\mathbb{R}^3 \times [0, \infty)$.
- (B) **Existence and smoothness of solutions in three dimensions**
 $\nu > 0$ and $n = 3$. Let $u^o(x)$ be any smooth divergence-free vector field on \mathbb{R}^3 ; we take $f(x, t)$ to be identically zero on $\mathbb{R}^3 \times [0, \infty)$ that satisfy (1), (2), (3), (6), (7) on $\mathbb{R}^3 \times [0, \infty)$.
- (C) **Breakdown of Navier–Stokes equations in three dimensions**
 $\nu > 0$ and $n = 3$. Then there exist a smooth, divergence-free vector field $u^o(x)$ on \mathbb{R}^3 and a smooth scalar field $f(x, t)$ on $\mathbb{R}^3 \times [0, \infty)$, satisfying (1), (2), (3), (6), (7) on $\mathbb{R}^3 \times [0, \infty)$.
- (D) **Breakdown of Navier–Stokes equations in three dimensions**
 $\nu > 0$ and $n = 3$. Then there exist a smooth, divergence-free vector field $u^o(x)$ on \mathbb{R}^3 and a smooth scalar field $f(x, t)$ on $\mathbb{R}^3 \times [0, \infty)$, satisfying (1), (2), (3), (6), (7) on $\mathbb{R}^3 \times [0, \infty)$.

EXISTENCE AND SMOOTHNESS OF THE NAVIER–STOKES EQUATION

CHARLES L. FEFFERMAN

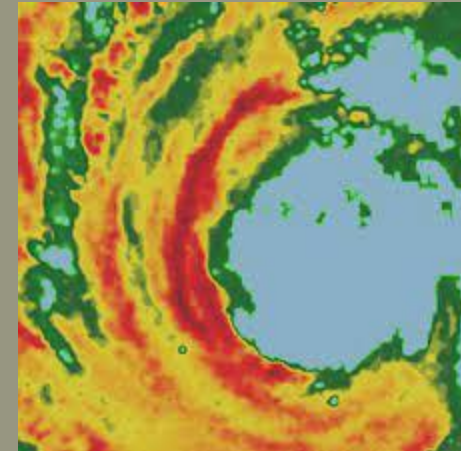
The Euler and Navier–Stokes equations describe the motion of a fluid in \mathbb{R}^n ($n = 2$ or 3). These equations are to be solved for an unknown velocity vector $u(x, t) = (u_i(x, t))_{1 \leq i \leq n} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and pressure $p(x, t) \in \mathbb{R}$, defined for position $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and time $t \geq 0$. We restrict attention here to incompressible fluids filling all of \mathbb{R}^n . The Navier–Stokes equations are then given by

$$(1) \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial t} u_i + \sum_{j=1}^n u_j \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} = \nu \Delta u_i - \frac{\partial p}{\partial x_i} + f_i(x, t) \quad (x \in \mathbb{R}^n, t \geq 0),$$

$$(2) \quad \operatorname{div} u = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_i} = 0 \quad (x \in \mathbb{R}^n, t \geq 0)$$

with initial conditions

$$(3) \quad u(x, 0) = u^o(x) \quad (x \in \mathbb{R}^n).$$

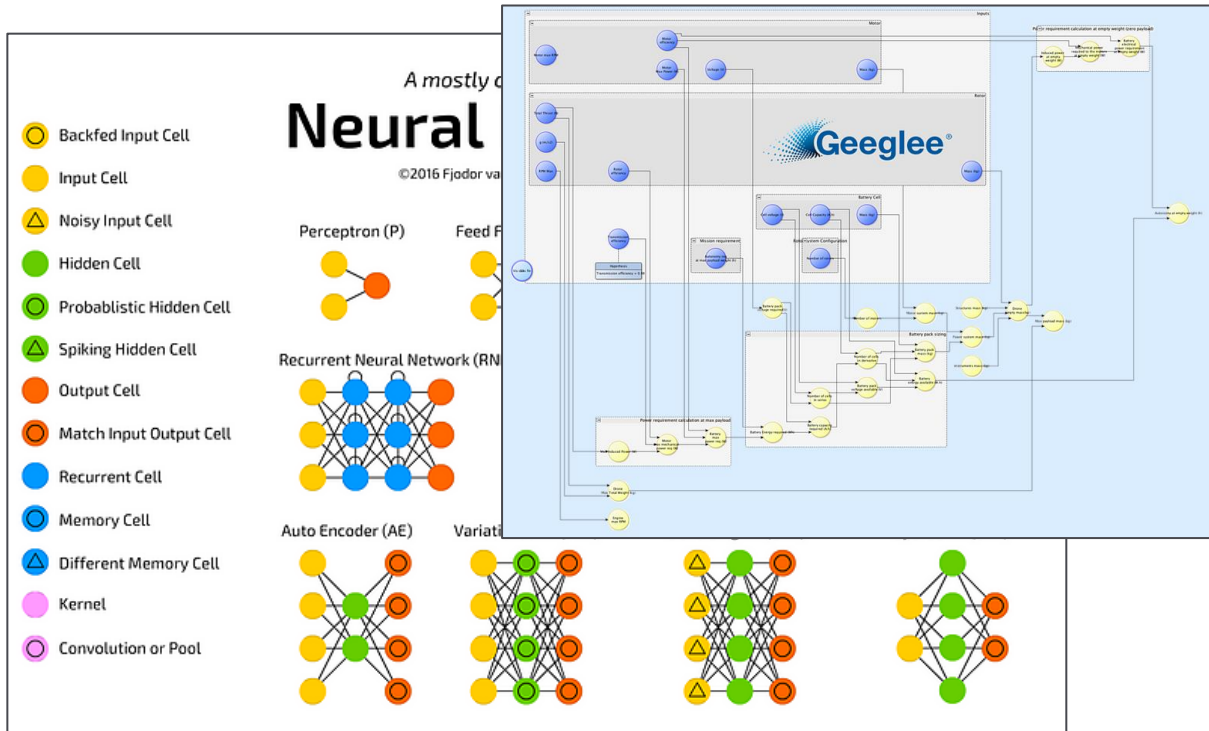


Difficult problems will need IA to speed up resolution

Engineering patterns and intelligence



<http://www.geeglee.net/>



What is Geeglee?

Geeglee is a "software value chain" made of two softwares:

- Geeglee Engineering Patterns (GEP), to capitalize the "way of thinking" of disciplines' experts
- Geeglee Engineering Intelligence (GEI), to navigate through the "space of feasible solutions" answering to need(s)

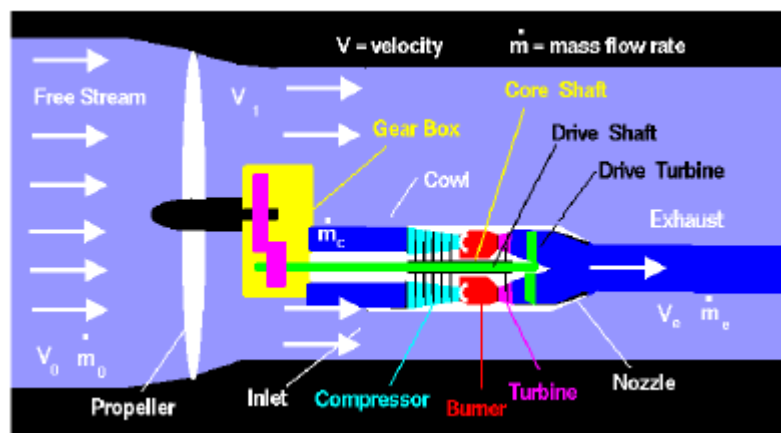
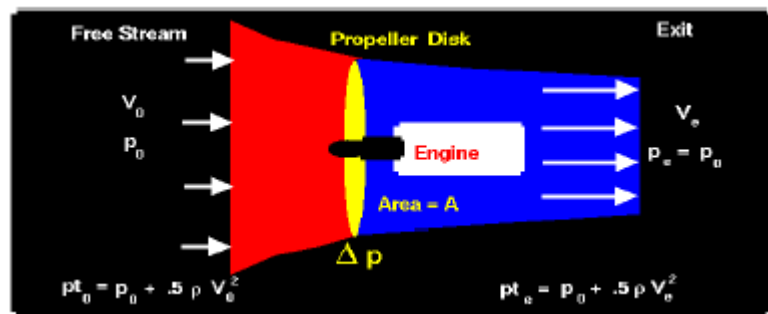


Does Geeglee mean the end of engineering work?

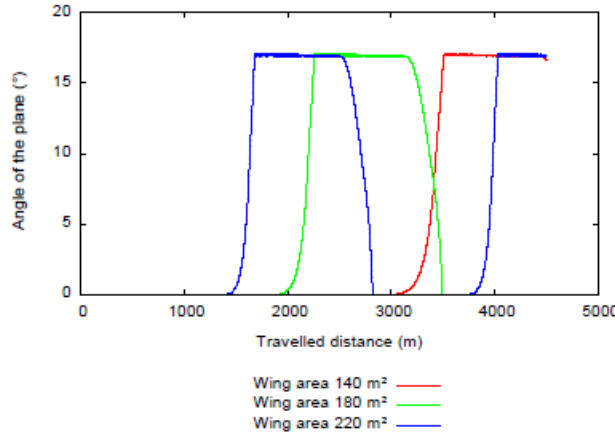
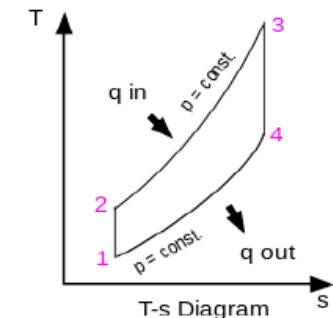
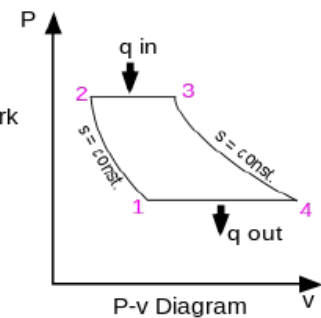
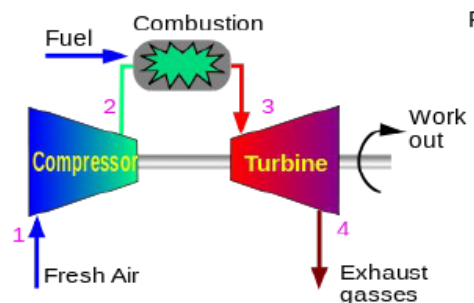
Of course not! Geeglee brings expertise to a next level.

Data and algorithm architecture is key in the problem resolution

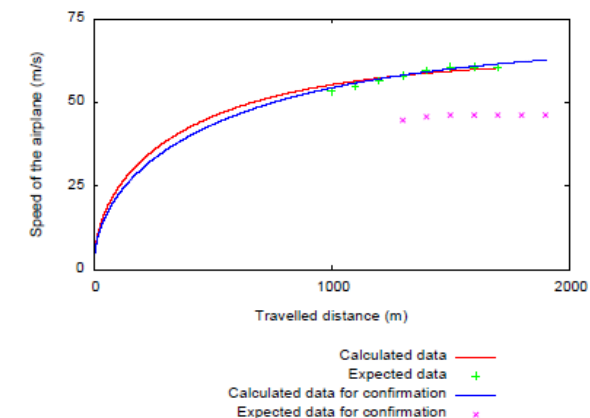
Engines simulation



Engine models



Results V.2: Angle of the plane with a flap that add 100% of the lift coefficient and an initial wing angle of 3°



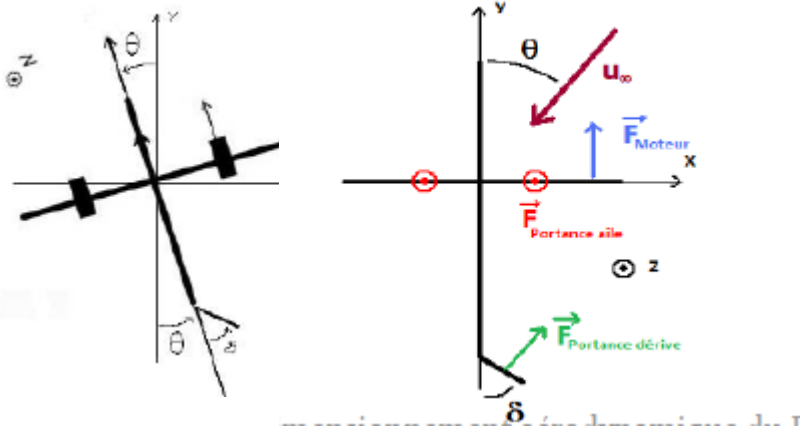
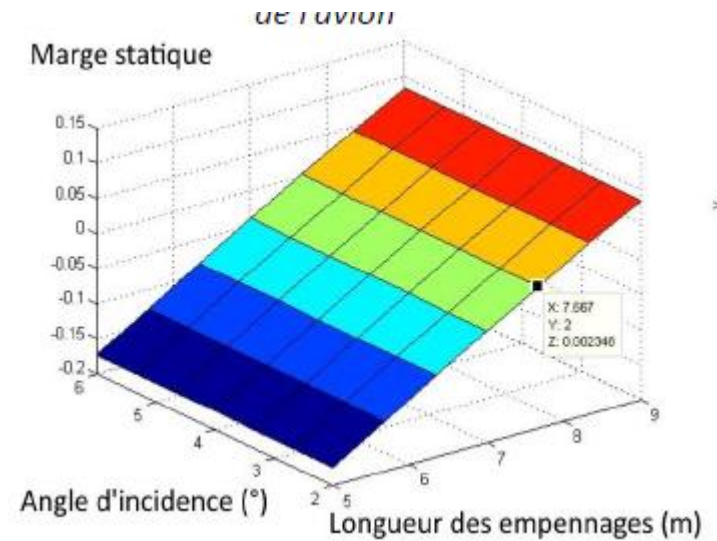
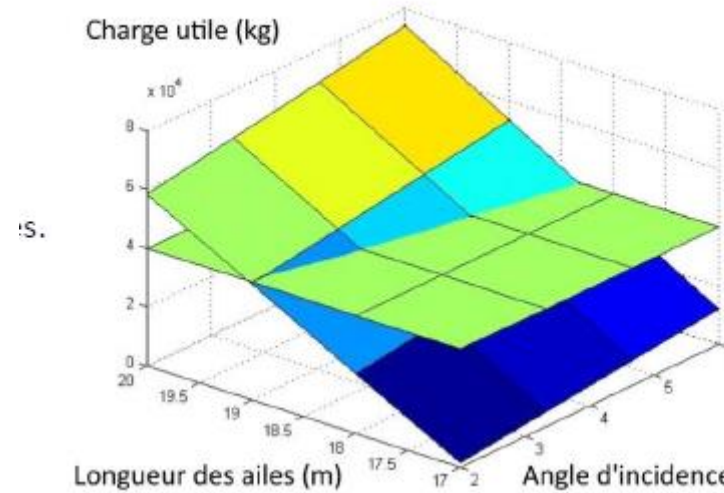
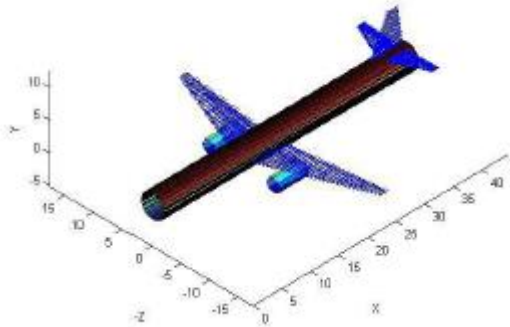
Results IV.2: Speed of the ATR72 obtained with the new model

Complex aircraft modeling does not need IA (eg. hybrid engines)

Basic aircraft flight simulation



CentraleSupélec

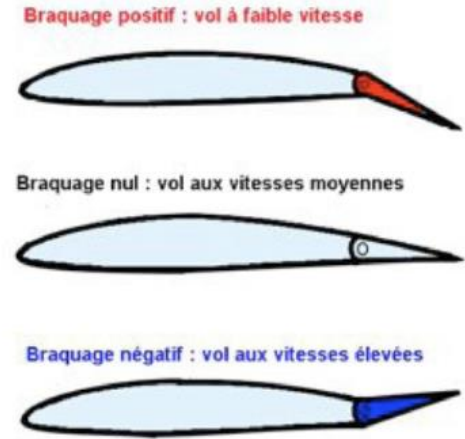


Multi form aircraft simulation does not need IA (eg. Multi wings)

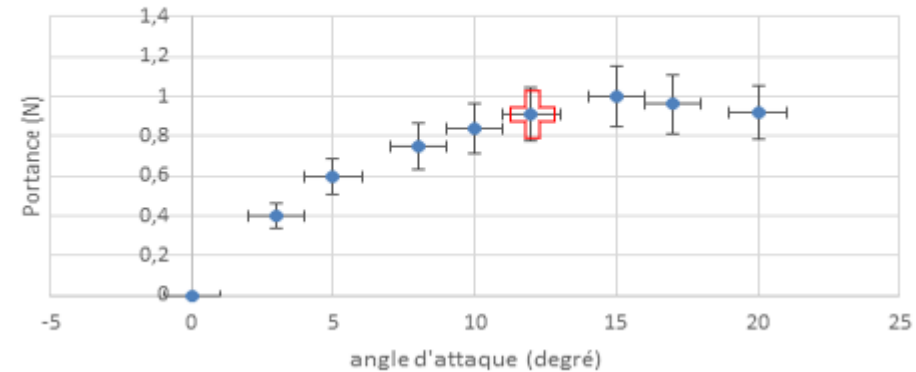
Wing shape

Hypothesis :

- Aircraft are using vertical air forces to balance weight
- Compromize between take-off and cruse flight
- Aircraft design is made according to crash condition

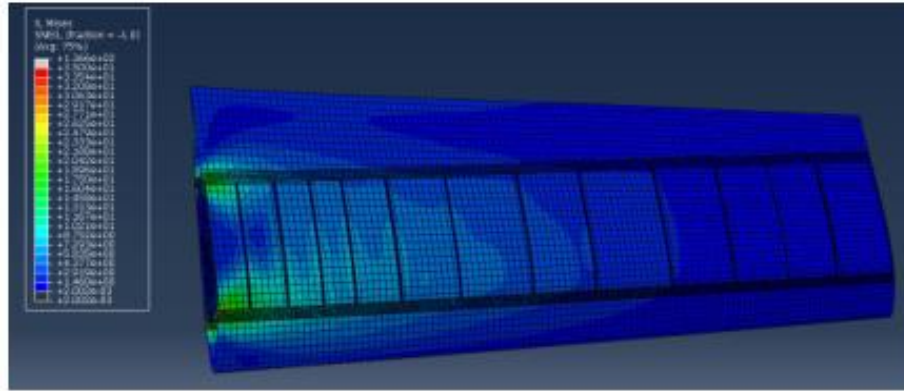


Portance en fonction de l'angle d'attaque --
Vitesse = 19,4 m/s



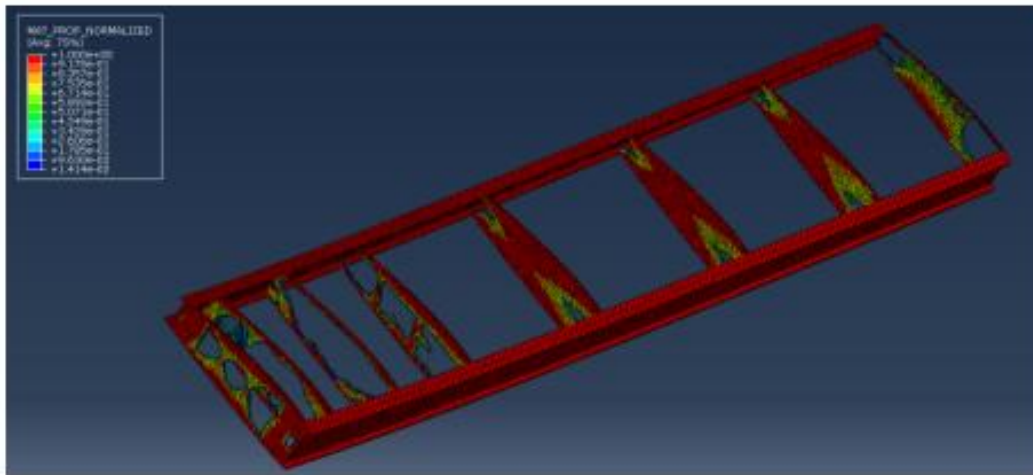
Aerodynamic parameters does not need IA

Topological wing optimization



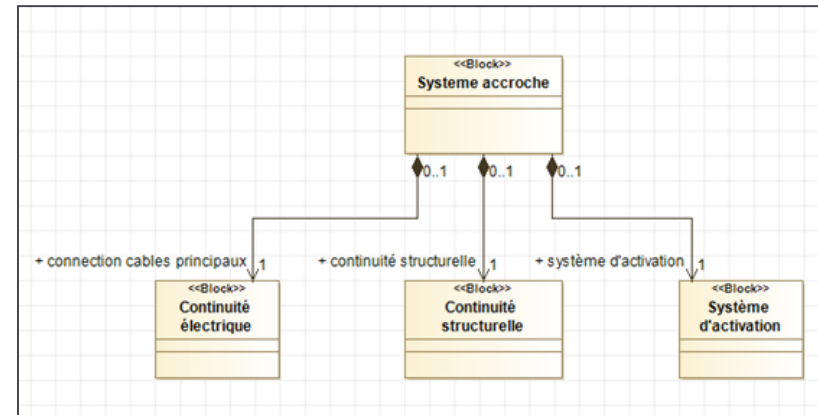
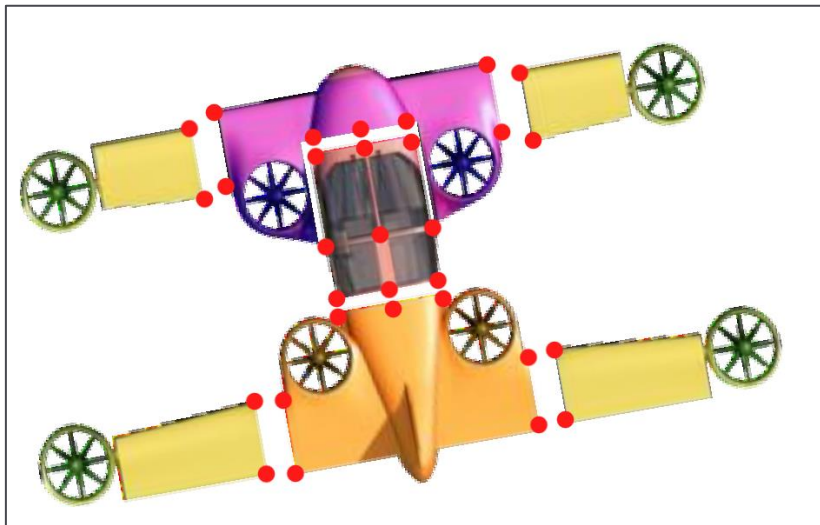
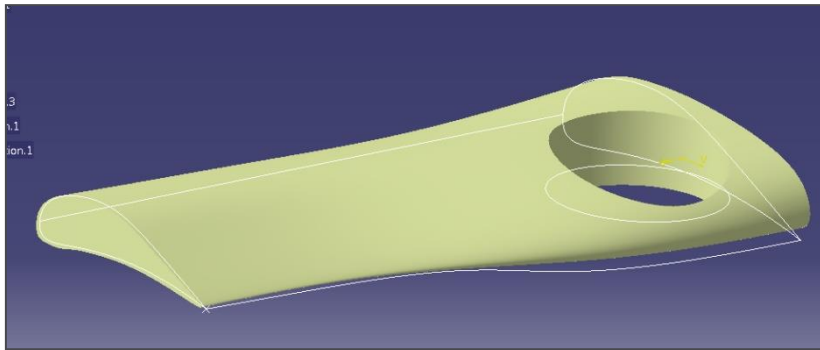
Basic optimization IA is already implemented within design software

But IA integration within aircraft design is difficult due to multicriteria optimization



Multifunctional design is mandatory (structure, aerodynamic, equipment)

Production and maintenance issues versus initial design



Example : wing optimisation in regard of modular conception

Aircraft design has to balance objectives :

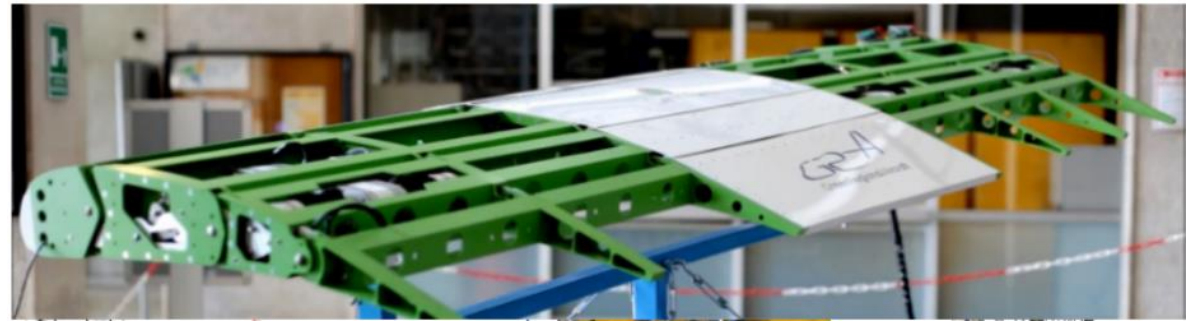
- Weight & drag reduction
- Cost of production
- Equipements constraints
- Maintenance issues

Morphing wings



Flaps are already a basic morphing wing

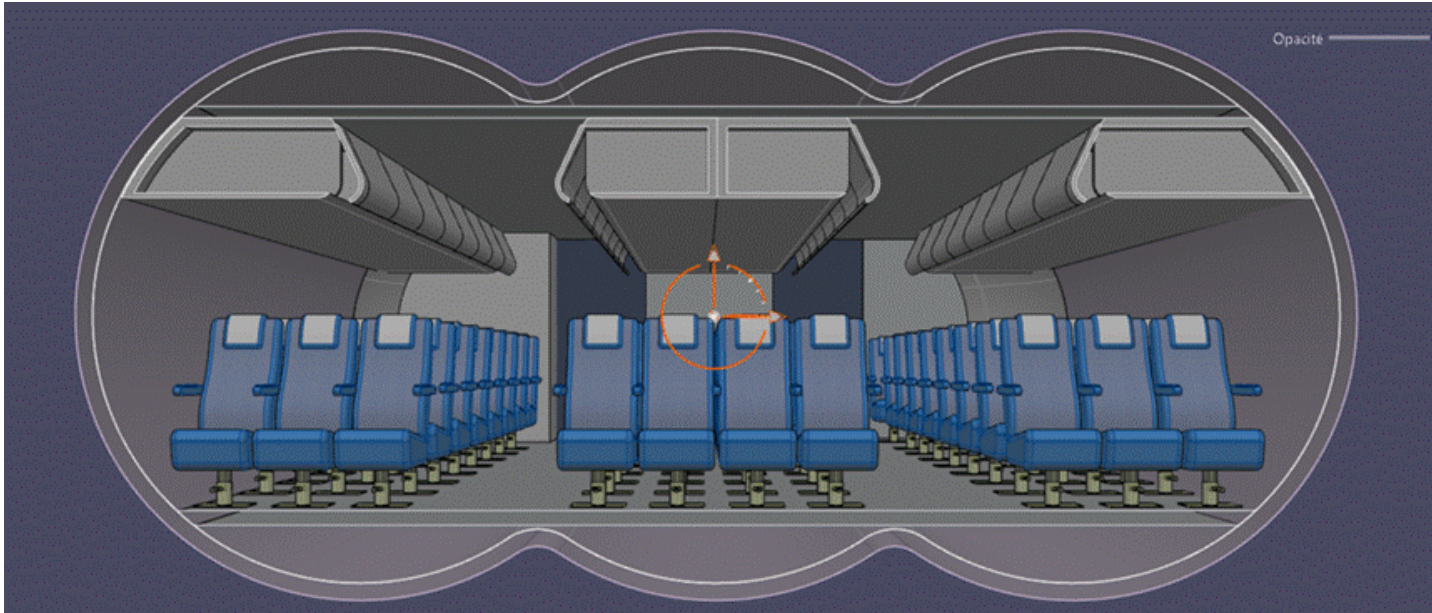
https://www.cleansky.eu/sites/default/files/inline-files/CS_Award_PhD_Francesco_Rea.pdf



Maintenance issues have to be overtaken

Reliability is key to assure operation high availability

Structural optimization



- Landing gear width



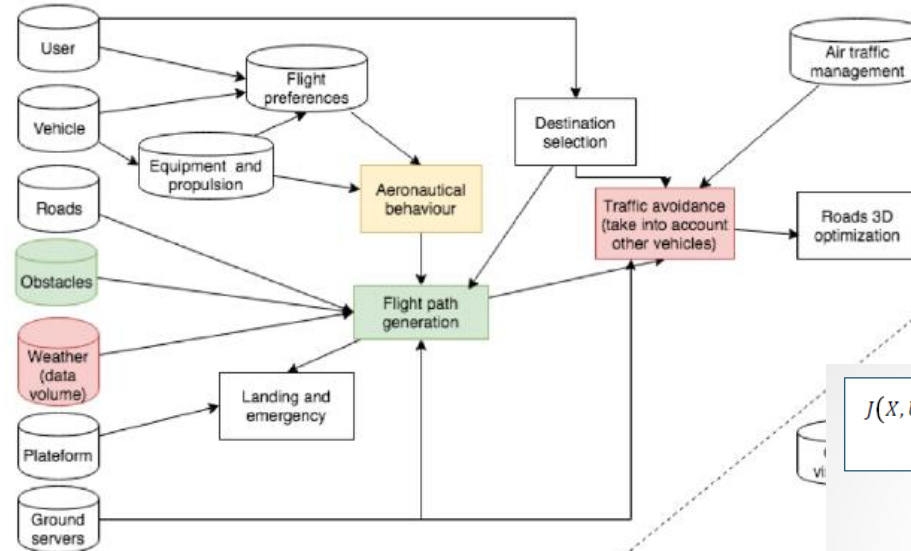
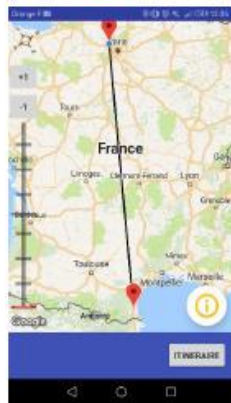
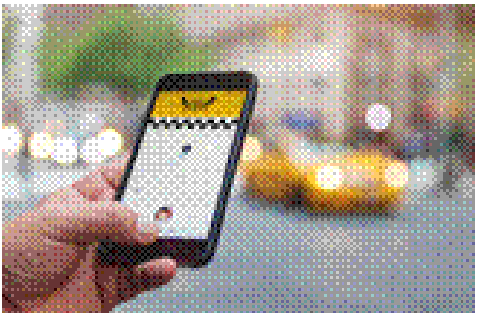
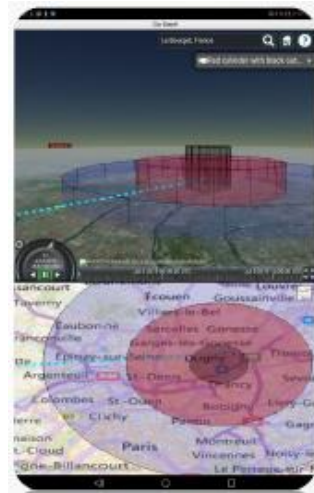
Onera

- Structural optimization
- Internal noise

Cabin and fuselage optimization need to take into consideration passenger logistic experience

IA Example : Urban Air Mobility Flight path optimization

Example : urban air mobility – Flight path optimization



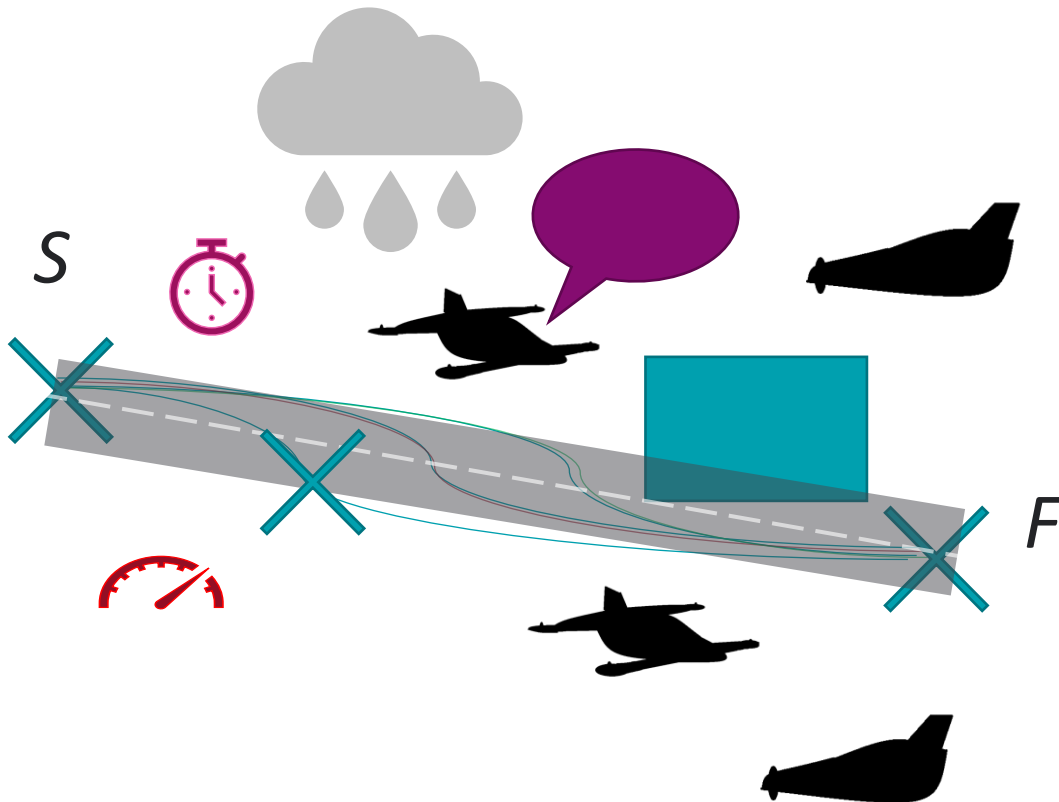
$$J(X, U, t_f) = \gamma(t_f - t_0) + (1 - \gamma) \int_{t_0}^{t_f} \underbrace{(k_t U_1(t))}_{\dot{m}} dt$$

Cost on the time flight	$\gamma \in [0,1]$	Cost on the fuel consumption
$\gamma = 1$ optimization on the flight time		$\gamma = 0$ optimization on the fuel consumption

Problem is simple to formulated

Problem definition

Provide real time flight management information for the pilot or autopilot



- ✿ Find an **eligible trajectory** from S to F in a **3D** environment
- ✿ Take **static obstacles** into account
- ✿ Avoid **moving objects**
- ✿ Consider **meteorological phenomena** (as constraints or additional effects on the physical model)
- ✿ Favor **air corridors** or **3D roads**
- ✿ Add **intermediary points**
- ✿ Implement a **collaborative** aspect
- ✿ **Minimize** a given criterion like **flight time** or **fuel consumption**

Problem definition is already complex

Discrete optimization, or continuous 3D Real-space

Example : obstacle avoidance



FIGURE 13 – La même zone géographique sur OpenStreetMap

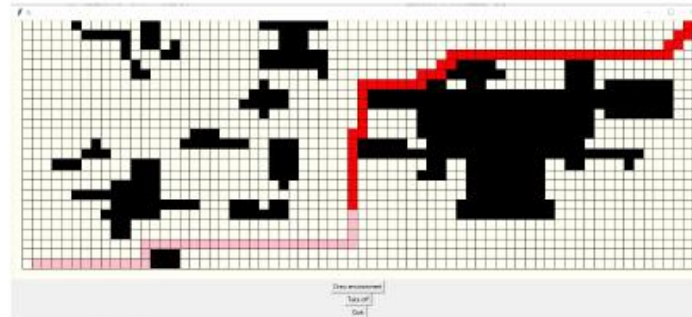
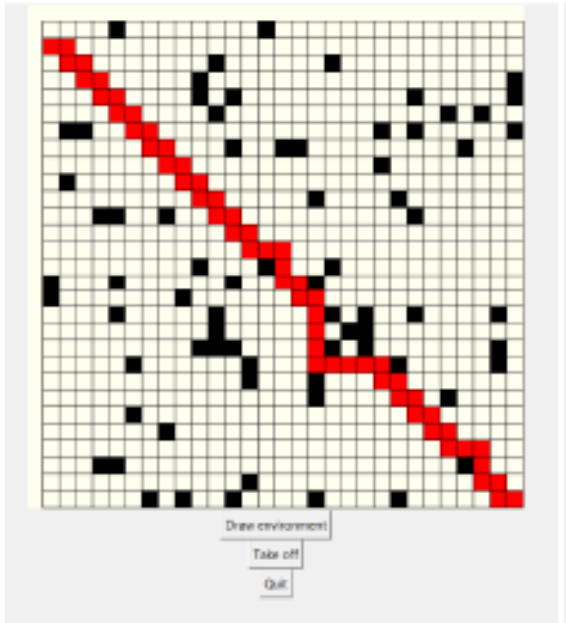
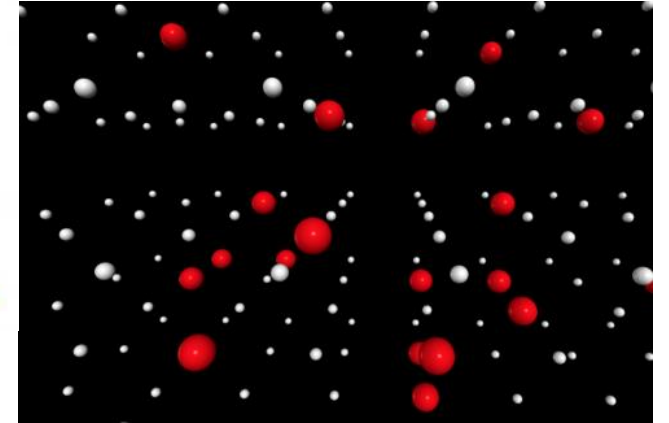
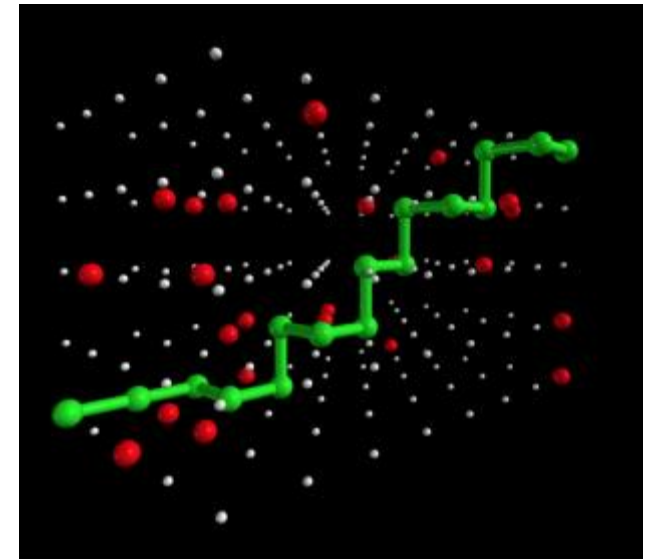


FIGURE 14 – Visualisation de l'avancée de l'aéronef



Are basic resolution enough for the problem ?

Choice of optimization method

Indirect methods

Generalized LQR theory

Not applicable

Approximate Dynamic Programming

No convergence proofs

Very complex

Direct methods

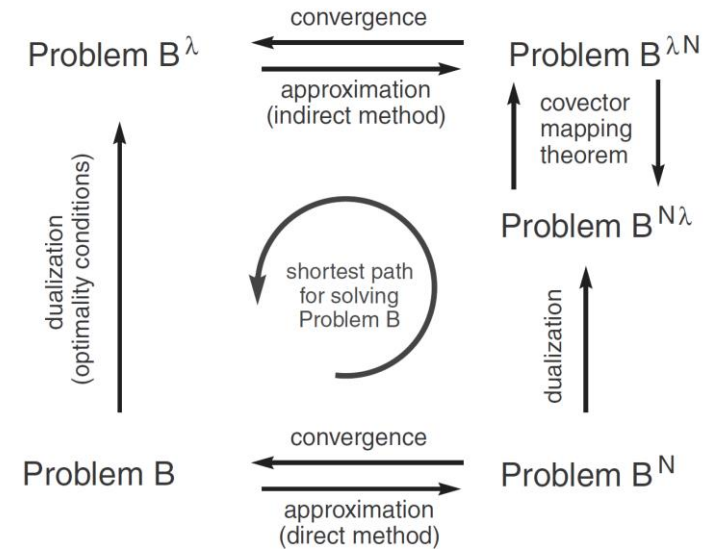
Finite elements

Applicable

Pseudospectral methods

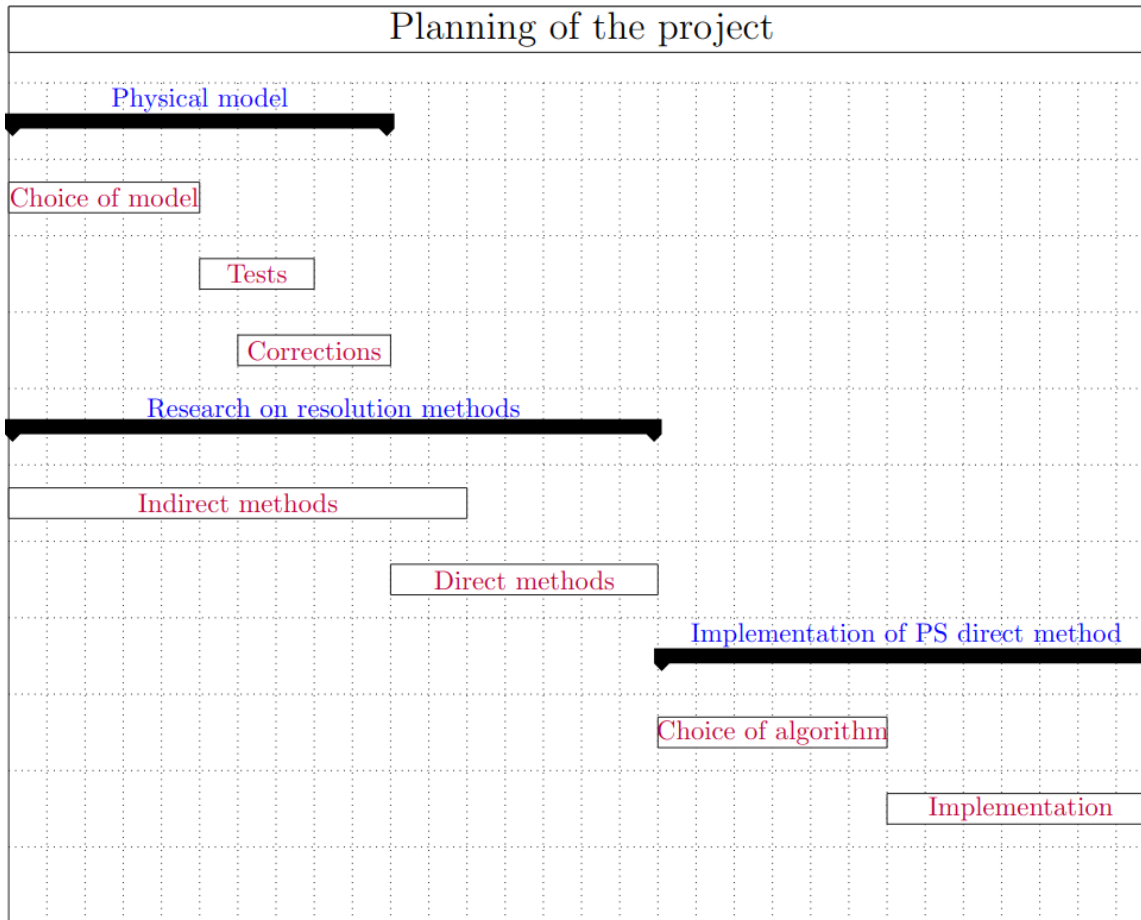
Convergence proofs

Already proven



How to choose the good resolution methodology ?

Planning of the projet



Is task achieved in 5minutes or in 5 months ?

How to estimate time and ressources of the project

Data model and mathematical formulation

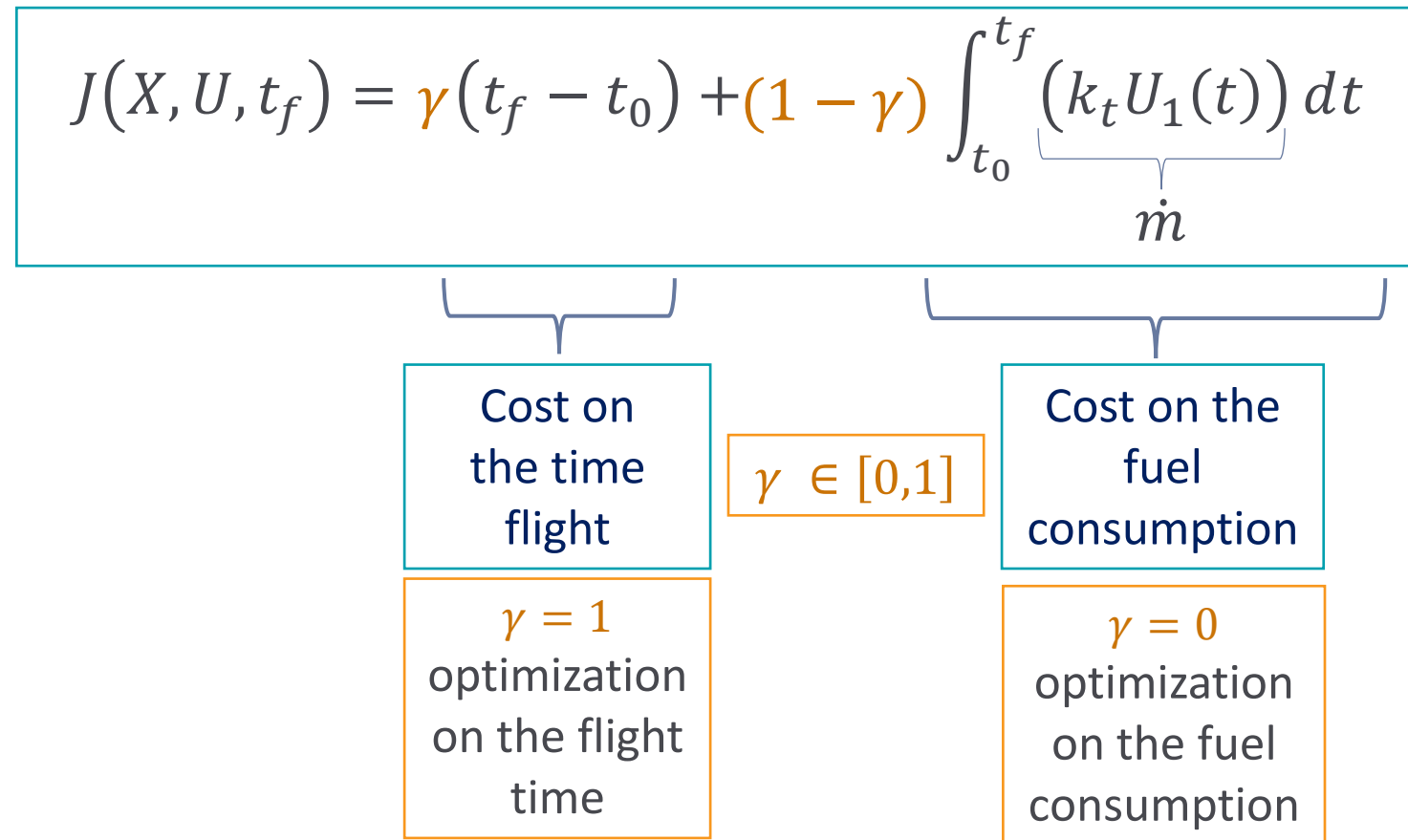
$$\dot{X}(t) = F(X(t), U(t)) \quad X(t) = \begin{pmatrix} q(t) \\ x(t) \\ v(t) \\ m(t) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{cases} \dot{q} = \frac{1}{2} M_s(U_\omega) q \\ \dot{x} = v \\ \dot{v} = \frac{F_a}{m} + g + \frac{U_1}{m} (k_t v + i) \\ \dot{m} = -k_t U_1 \end{cases}$$

Hypothesis: the angular velocity is directly controlled	F_a the aerodynamic force
	g the gravitational force
Position in the global coordinate system: $x(t) = (x_1(t) \ x_2(t) \ x_3(t))^T$	m the mass
	$k_t > 0$ constant of proportionality depending on the engine type and atmospheric values
Speed in the global coordinate system: $v(t) = (v_1(t) \ v_2(t) \ v_3(t))^T$	Hypothesis: the mass derivative is proportional to the thrust

First step is to transform problem into mathematic formula

Minimize cost function – Convex optimization



Most IA problem can be transformed into a cost reduction optimization

Select tool

Find the solution to $\min_{X,U,t_f} J(X,U,t_f)$

Minimisation of the **cost**

Subject to $\dot{X}(t) = F(X(t),U(t))$

Respect of the **physical equation**

$$\|U_i\|_\infty < U_i^{max}, \forall i \in \llbracket 1, 4 \rrbracket$$

$$U_1(t) \geq 0, \forall t \in [t_0, t_f]$$

$$x(t_f) = x_f$$

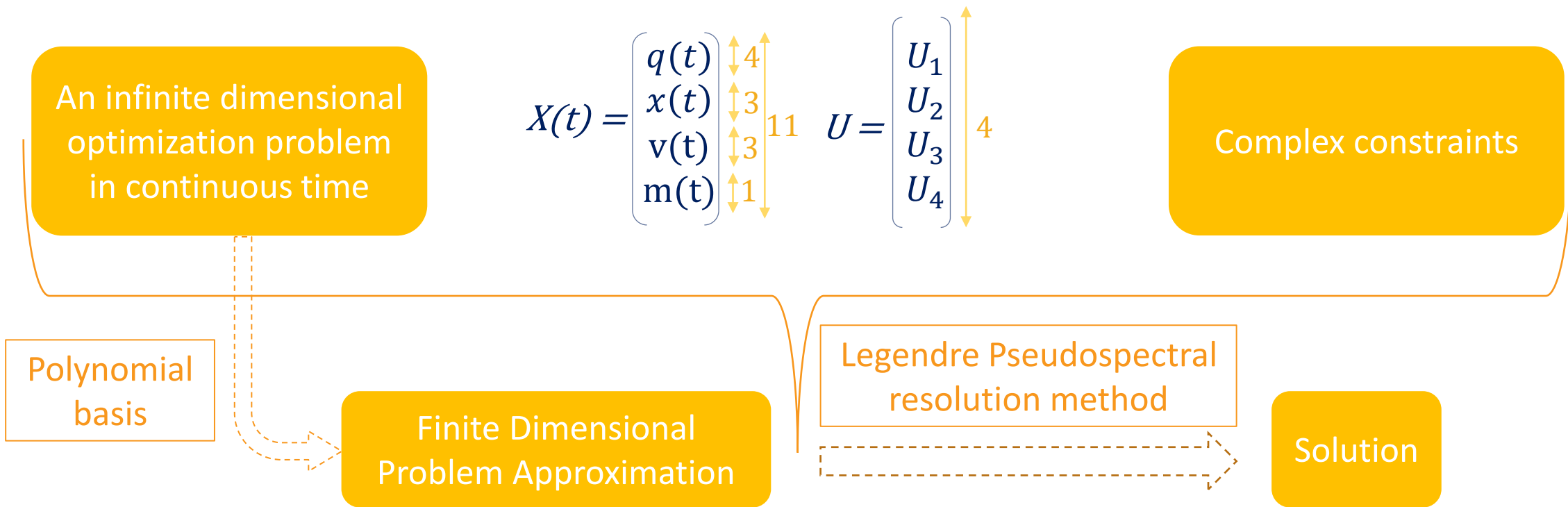
$$X(t_0) = X_0$$

Respect of five **constraints** on the **cost** and the **state**

$$\left\| \frac{x_1 - x_c^{1,i}}{a^i} \right\|^{p_1^i} + \left\| \frac{x_2 - x_c^{2,i}}{b^i} \right\|^{p_2^i} + \left\| \frac{x_3 - x_c^{3,i}}{c^i} \right\|^{p_3^i} \geq 1, \forall i \in \llbracket 1, N_c \rrbracket$$

Second step is to adjust formulation to tool used to solve the expression

Resolution of the optimization problem



Usage of polynomials and matrix is mandatory

Legendre pseudospectral nonlinear problem

$$\hat{X}_i(t_k^L) = f(\hat{X}_i(t_k^L), \hat{U}_i(t_k^L))$$

Lagrange polynomials : φ_n

$$\hat{X}_i(t_k^L) = \sum_{n=0}^N \hat{X}_{i,n} \varphi_n(t_k^L) = \sum_{n=0}^N \hat{X}_{i,n} D_{kn}$$

$$\hat{X}_i(t_k^L) = \sum_{n=0}^N \hat{X}_{i,n} \varphi_n(t_k^L)$$

$$\hat{U}_i(t_k^L) = \sum_{n=0}^N \hat{U}_{i,n} \varphi_n(t_k^L)$$

$$D_{kn} = \varphi_n(t_k^L) \begin{cases} \frac{L_N(\tau_k)}{L_N(\tau_n)} \frac{1}{\tau_k - \tau_n}, & \text{if } k \neq n \\ \frac{2}{t_f - t_0} \begin{cases} -\frac{N(N+1)}{4}, & \text{if } k = n = 0 \\ \frac{N(N+1)}{4}, & \text{if } k = n = N \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \end{cases}$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^N \hat{X}_{i,n} D_{kn} = f(\hat{X}_i(t_k^L), \hat{U}_i(t_k^L))$$

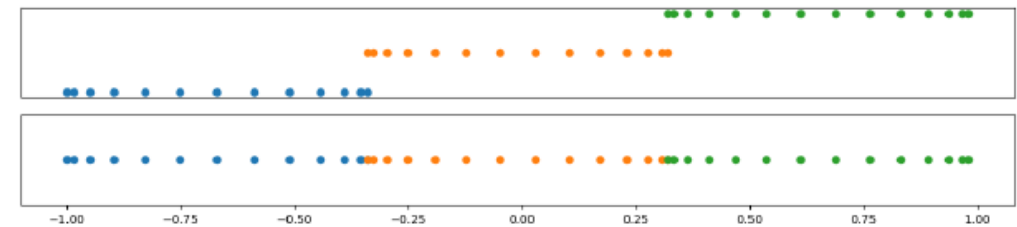


Figure 4: Legendre-Gauss-Lobato nodes for $N = 50$ (51 points) and 3 segments. The points are clumped towards points of interest (potentially non-smooth areas), and sparser in the middle of each segment (smooth area).

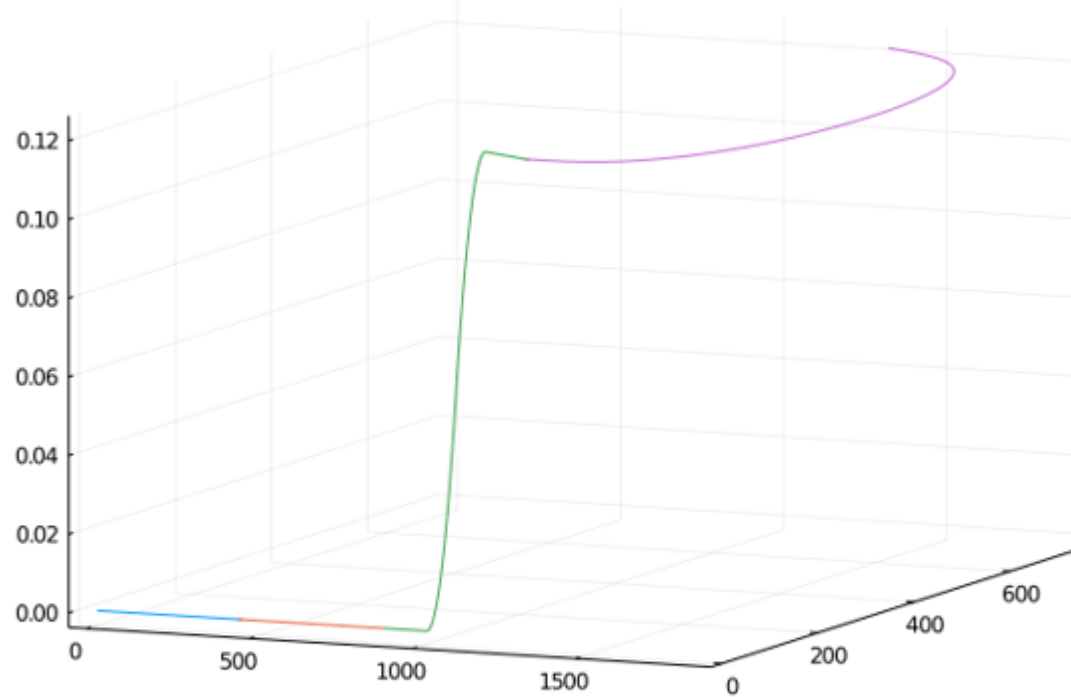
Example for flight path optimization

Rewritten Optimization problem

Find the solution to $\min_{\hat{X}, \hat{U}, t_f} J(\hat{X}, \hat{U}, t_f)$	Minimisation of the cost
Subject to $\left\ \sum_{n=0}^N \hat{X}_{i,n} D_{kn} - f(\hat{X}(t_k^L), \hat{U}(t_k^L))_i \right\ _{\infty} - \delta \leq 0, \forall i \in \llbracket 1, 11 \rrbracket$	Respect of the physical equation : $\dot{X} = F(X, U)$
$\ \hat{U}_i\ _{\infty} - \hat{U}_i^{max} < 0, \forall i \in \llbracket 1, 4 \rrbracket$ $-\hat{U}_1(t_n^L) \leq 0, \forall n \in [0, N]$ $\ \hat{x}_i(t_N^L) - \hat{x}_f^i\ _{\infty} - \delta \leq 0, \forall i \in \llbracket 1, 11 \rrbracket$ $\ \hat{X}_i(t_0^L) - \hat{X}_0^i\ _{\infty} - \delta \leq 0, \forall i \in \llbracket 1, 11 \rrbracket$ $1 - \left\ \frac{\hat{x}_1 - x_c^{1,i}}{a^i} \right\ ^{p_1^i} - \left\ \frac{\hat{x}_2 - x_c^{2,i}}{b^i} \right\ ^{p_2^i} - \left\ \frac{\hat{x}_3 - x_c^{3,i}}{c^i} \right\ ^{p_3^i} \leq 0, \forall i \in \llbracket 1, N_c \rrbracket$	Respect of five constraints on the cost and the state

After first results, rewriting the code is always mandatory

Main difficulty : simple visualisation



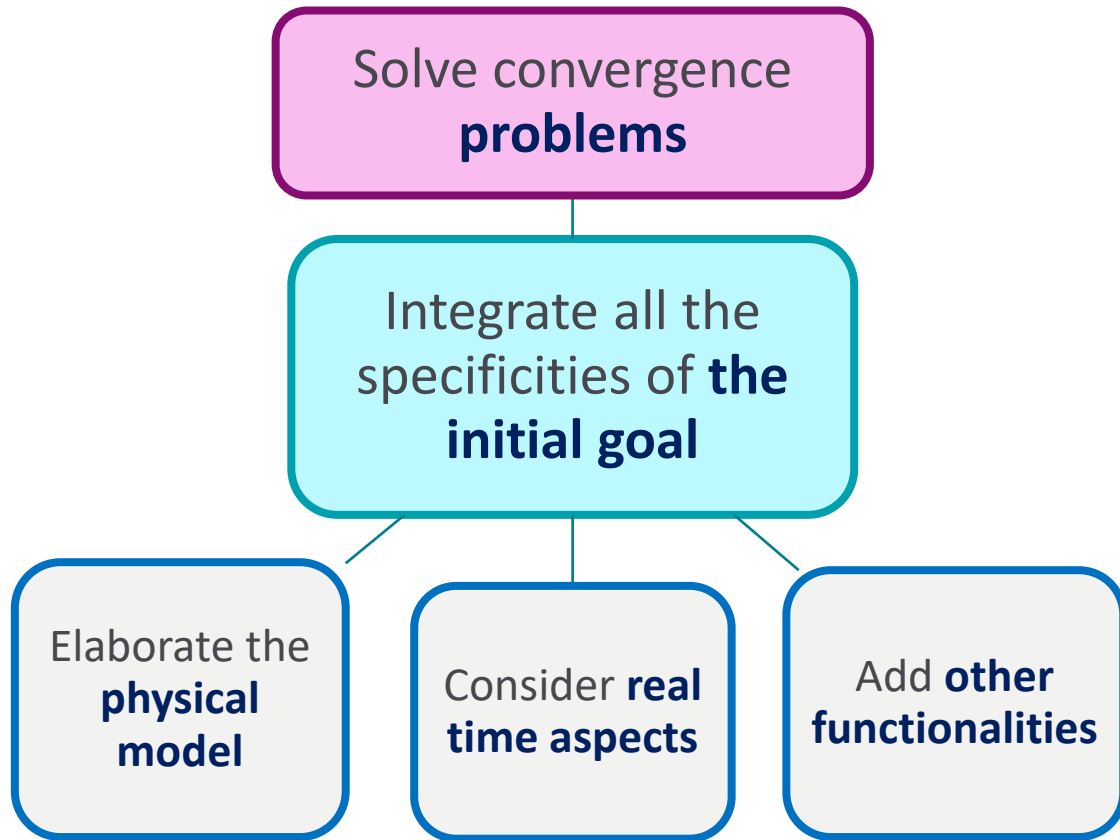
Trajectories

- Without considering mass variation
- With mass variation
- With a change of altitude
- With a turn

for

- Outputs integration in other applications
- Results validation before production phase
- Change management in input hypothesis

IA Project



- Mathematical resolution of the convergence problem is the first step

Human pilot is still mandatory :

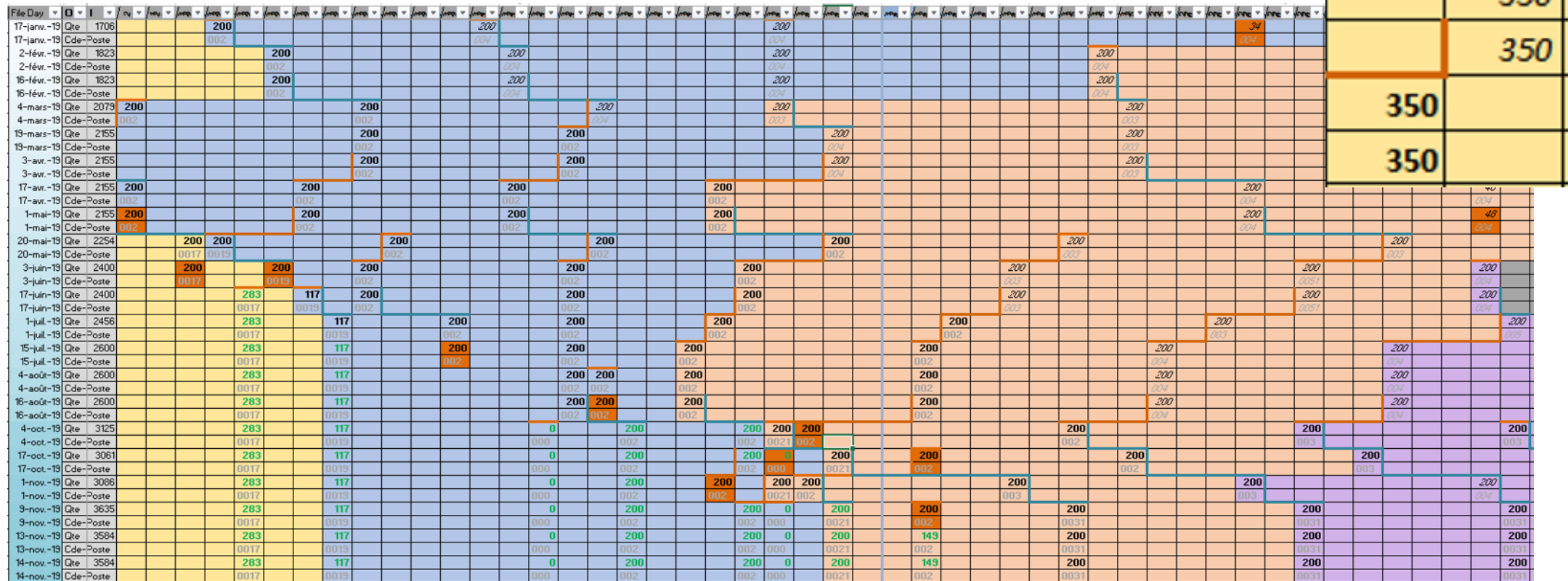
Where to crash :

Trees or schoolyard ?



Supply chain data cleaning – basic daily IA

Color mapping for order book reviews



Within production process, Basic IA can help day to day industrial technician

Thanks

Merci

谢谢你

Xièxiè nǐ