

Acknowledgements

This work was originally supported by a Ph. D study grant from the French Embassy in Beijing, China and was carried out in the Equipe Calcul Haute Performance en Mécanique (CHPM), Laboratoire de Modélisation et Simulation Numérique en Mécanique (L3M, FRE-2405-MSNM Laboratoire mixte CNRS – Universités d’Aix-Marseille).

First, I wish to express my infinite gratitude to Dr. Bernard Roux, Directeur de Recherche au CNRS, for all his efforts to make this study possible, for his taking all the troubles to supervise this thesis and for his great patience for bearing my slow progress—he never urged me to publish the immature results I got and this allows me to have a free spirit to explore the different aspects of numerical simulation of ventilation flows which I think is indispensable for doing a research work. Both of his helps in work and in life are invaluable and will be an ever-sweet souvenir in my life.

I count me as a very lucky one to have the marvelous opportunity to work in such a warm and friendly group and in such a beautiful city with its always brilliant sunshine and the blue sky. With the warm support from all the colleagues in the group and more generally in the Lab., I feel always at home even though I am far away from my family and my country. I am happy to have this chance to express my gratefulness to all my colleagues, for their warm support, both in work and in life, and for their friendly cares in many ways.

This work would not be possible without the kind help of many people. I wish to express my special thanks to J. Heikkinen of the VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland, C. Blomqvist of the National Swedish Institute for Building Research, Prof. P. Heiselberg of University of Aalborg (Denmark), Prof. Dr.-Ing. M. Zeller of Lehrstuhl für Wärmeübertragung (Germany) for generously sharing with me their precious experimental data for the IEA Annex 20 Test Cases and to Dr. L. K. Voigt of Technical University of Denmark for kindly sending me the experimental data of the IEA Annex 20 Test Case 2D and to Dr. W. Schwarz of Fluent.Inc for kindly sending me the ASHRAE RP-1009 Report and for many inspiring discussions with him. I wish also to express my gratitude to Prof. B. E. Launder of UMIST, Prof. J. Ferziger of Stanford University, Dr. R. Schiestel of IRPHE for their help to understand turbulence modeling and the inspiring discussions with them; and to Prof. R. Sani of University of Colorado, Prof. H. Ben Hadid of Université Claude Bernard (Lyon I) and Dr. M. Pavageau of Ecole des Mines de Nantes for their many helpful suggestions on the manuscript and for acting as referees of my thesis. My thanks are also for Prof. L. Davidson of Chalmers University of Technology (Sweden), Prof. S. Kato of University of Tokyo (Japan), Dr.-Ing. M. Breuer of University of Erlangen-Nuernberg (Germany), Prof. L. Kleiser of ETH Zurich (Switzerland), Prof. Dr.-Ing. G. Groetzbach of Institut fuer Reaktorsicherheit (Germany), Prof. P. Bradshaw of Stanford University, Prof. J. J. Roux and Prof. J. F. Sacadura of the Centre de Thermique de Lyon (CETHIL) and Mrs. Maggy Doolhoff, secretary to Prof. K. Hanjalic of TU Delft (The Netherlands) for sending me many helpful and hard-to-find reports and thesis. I am very grateful to Dr. S. H. Peng of Chalmers University of Technology (Sweden), Dr. C. Buchanan of University of California, Dr. J. C. Bennetsen of Danish Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Dr. P. Schild of Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) and Dr. S. J. Rees of Oklahoma State University for kindly sending me their Ph. D thesis which have been very helpful for this study.

Finally but not lastly, I wish to express my great gratitude to my dear colleagues D. Fougère, S. Fayolle and R. Kotarba for their technical support and for keeping the computing facilities (in particular the powerful AMD-Athlon cluster, on which most of the computations have been performed) at L3M always in good order, to P. Falandry of the Centre Informatique National de l'Enseignement Supérieur (CINES) for his kind help to efficiently use their parallel machines, and to my dear friends Mrs. Sylvie Falk and Mr. Alain Poujol for their generous financial help and many warm cares in life. I am grateful for all who have helped me in one way or another and feel sorry that I cannot cite all the names here because that will be a very long list but I have always great gratitude toward them in my heart.

I send also my infinite gratitude to my family and friends in China for their loving support, especially to my mother who patiently bears my long absence at her old age and who hopes always all the best for me.

May peace and happiness be with all!