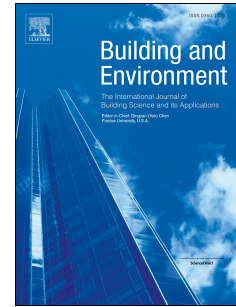


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Predictive Large Eddy Simulations for Urban Flows: Challenges and Opportunities

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Abstract

Computational fluid dynamics predictions of urban flow are subject to several sources of uncertainty, such as the definition of the inflow boundary conditions or the turbulence model. Compared to Reynolds-averaged Navier-Stokes (RANS) simulations, large eddy simulations (LES) can reduce turbulence model uncertainty by resolving the turbulence down to scales in the inertial subrange, but the presence of other uncertainties will not be reduced. The objective of this study is to present an initial investigation of the relative importance of these different types of uncertainties by comparing urban flow predictions obtained using RANS and LES to field measurements. The simulations are designed to reproduce measurements performed during the Joint Urban 2003 field experiments. The time-averaged velocity measured at an upstream wind sensor is used to define the inflow boundary condition, and the results are compared to time-averaged measurements at 34 locations

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