

Continuous upscaling

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Publications:

Physics of fluids 36 (2024), 027118

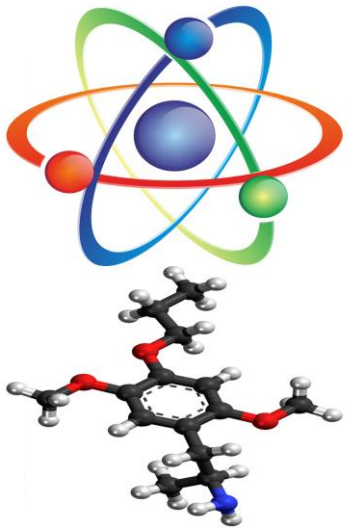
Chemical Engineering Science 248 (2022), 117247

Chemical Engineering Science 234 (2021), 116454

*Prepared for the online PoreLab Seminar
May 15, 2024*

Multiple scales in physics

Atoms and molecules



Macro-world



Earth



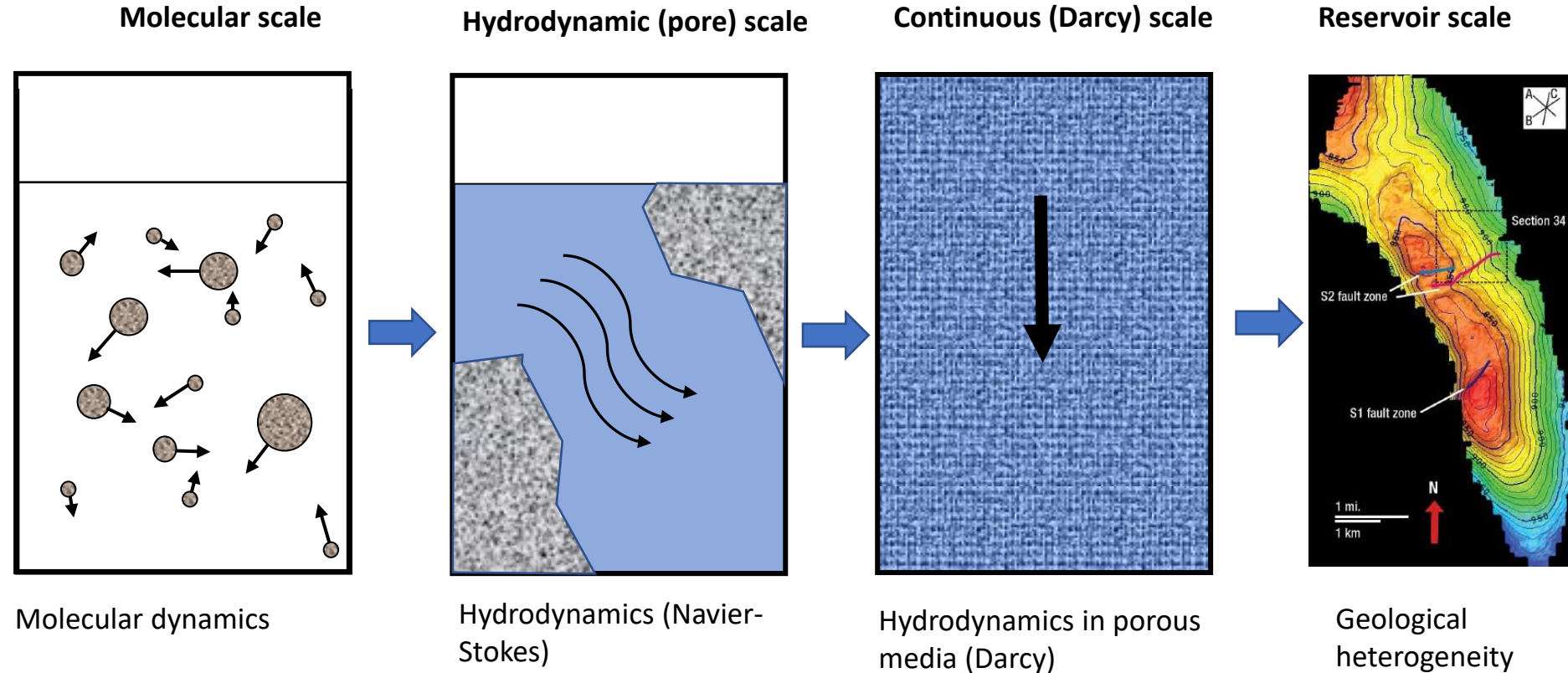
Universe



Physics: What is the difference and the interaction between the different “worlds”?

Mathematics: How the asymptotic transitions between the different scales are organized?

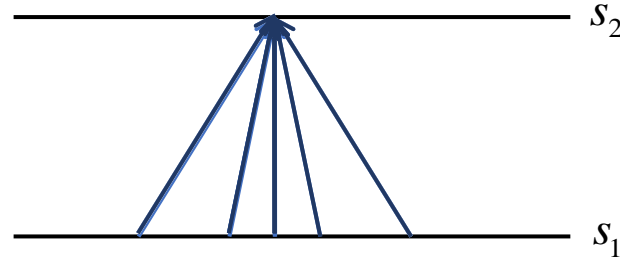
Multiple scales in porous media



How to transfer:

- From the molecular properties to the flow equations
- From the laboratory experiments to the reservoir level
- From the fine-grid to the coarse-grid reservoir description
-

Traditional ways of upscaling:



Simple averaging

$$\langle m \rangle(x) = \frac{1}{V} \int_{V-x} m(y) dy$$

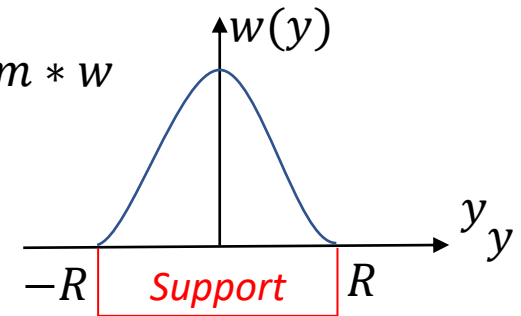
R.E-V – representative elementary volume

Weight averaging

$$\langle m \rangle(x) = \int m(x-y)w(y)dy = m * w$$

Here $w(y)$ is the weight function:

$$\int w(y)dy = 1$$



Mention non-uniqueness

Other methods are system-specific

(statistical mechanics, homogenization in periodic media, multiphase flows in porous media,...)

Weight averaging as averaging over “random step”

$$\langle m \rangle(x) = \int m(x - y)w(y)dy = m * w$$

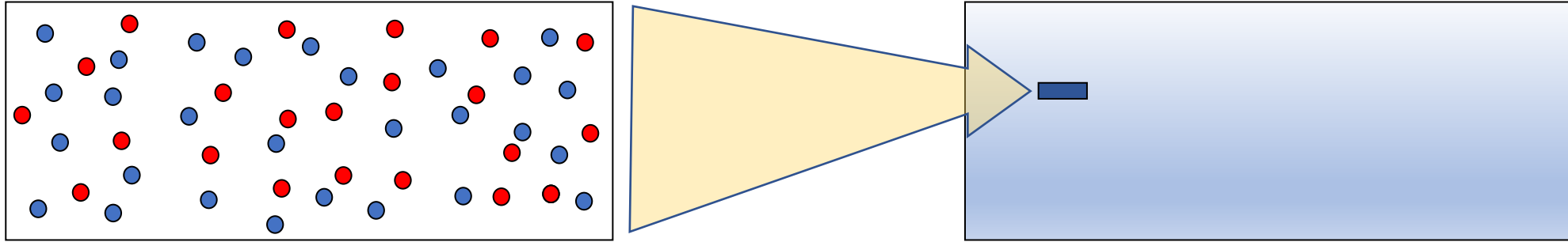
Consider a random variable (“step”) Y with the distribution $w(y)$. The last equality may be interpreted as

$$\langle m \rangle(x) = \langle m(x - Y) \rangle,$$

where averaging on the rhs is over all Y .

That is, weighted averaging may be interpreted as an average value of a density in a given point, coming there by a random step.

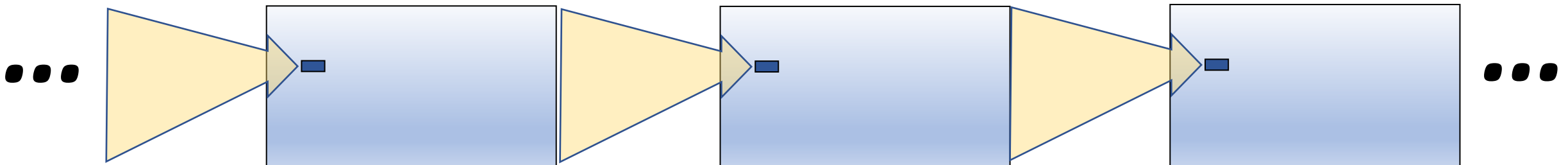
Asymptotics – R.E.V. (representative elementary volume)



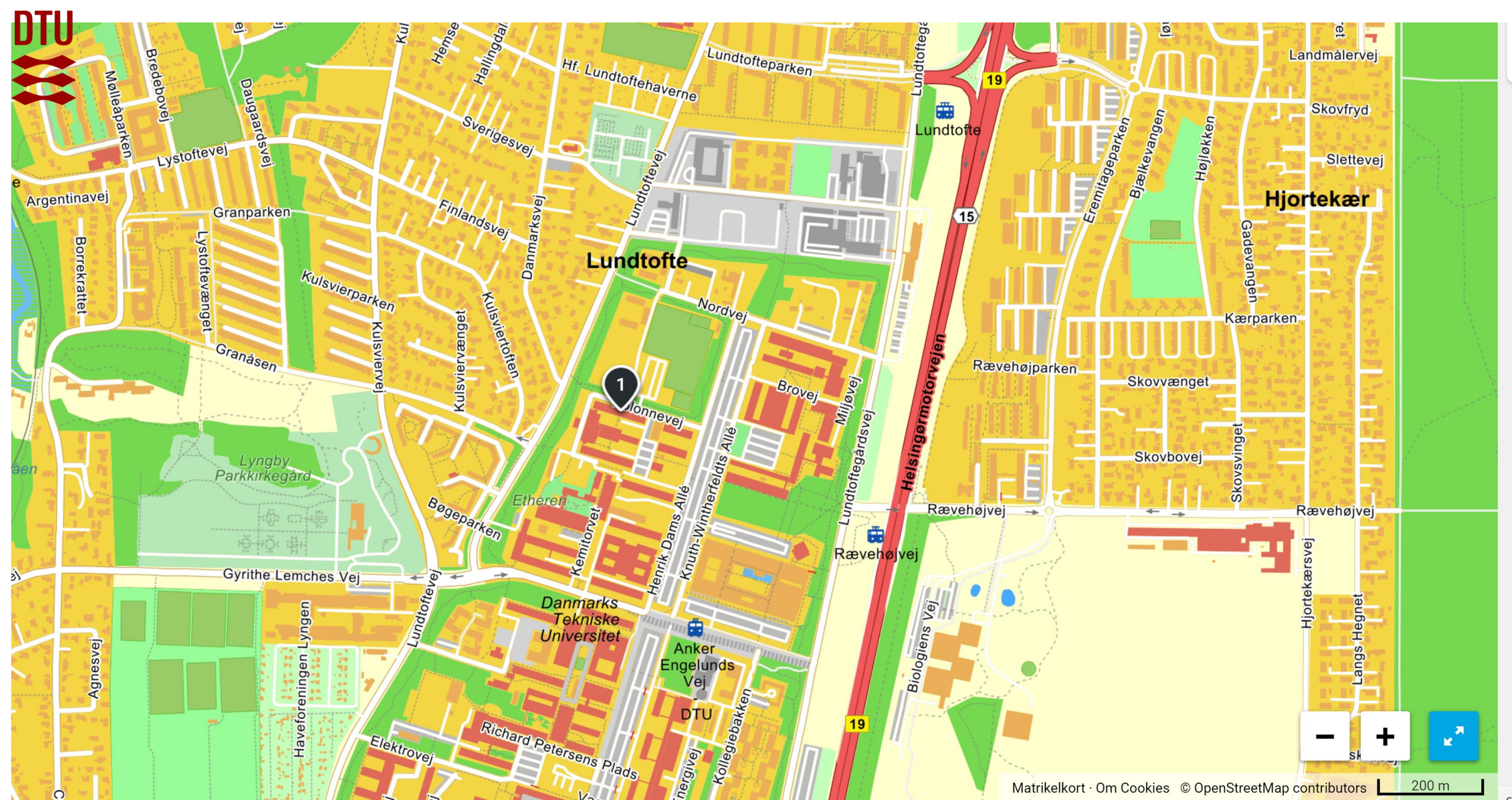
The R.E.V. should be “infinitely large” compared to molecular sizes...

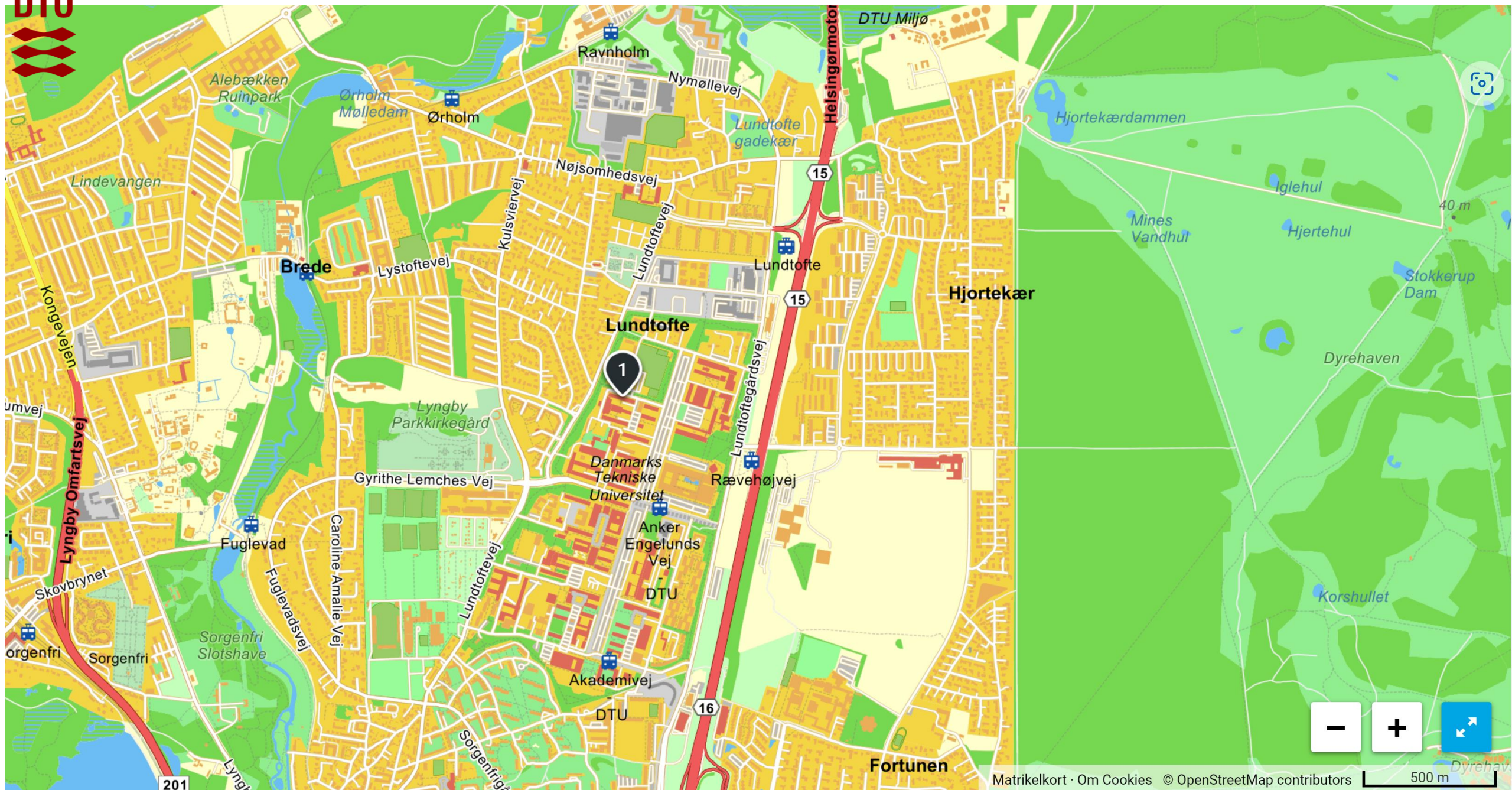
...but “infinitely small” compared to the size of a problem

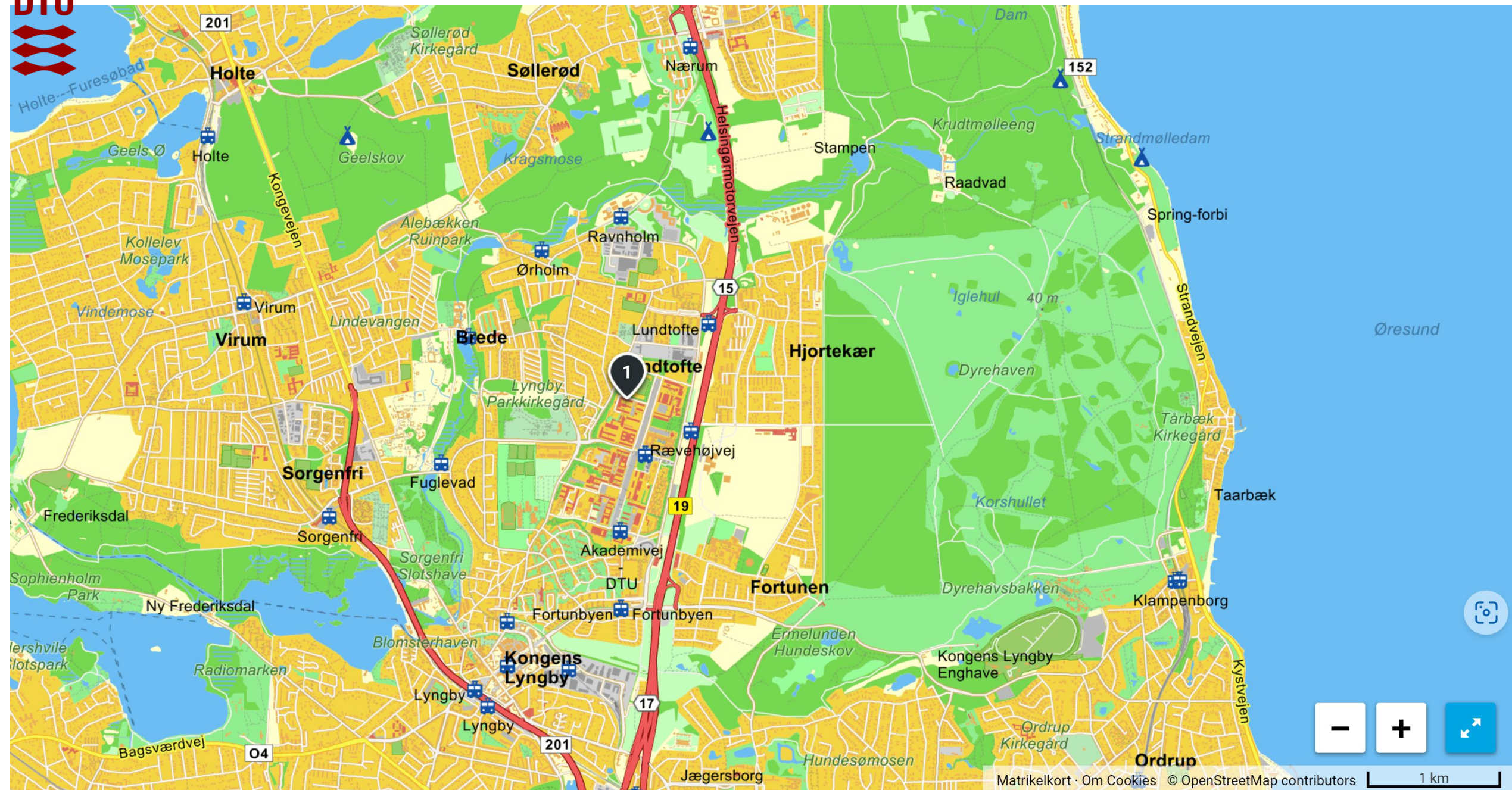
- *How is this transition made mathematically?*
- *What happens with multiple asymptotic transitions?*
- *Is the result unique, or it depends on a procedure?*

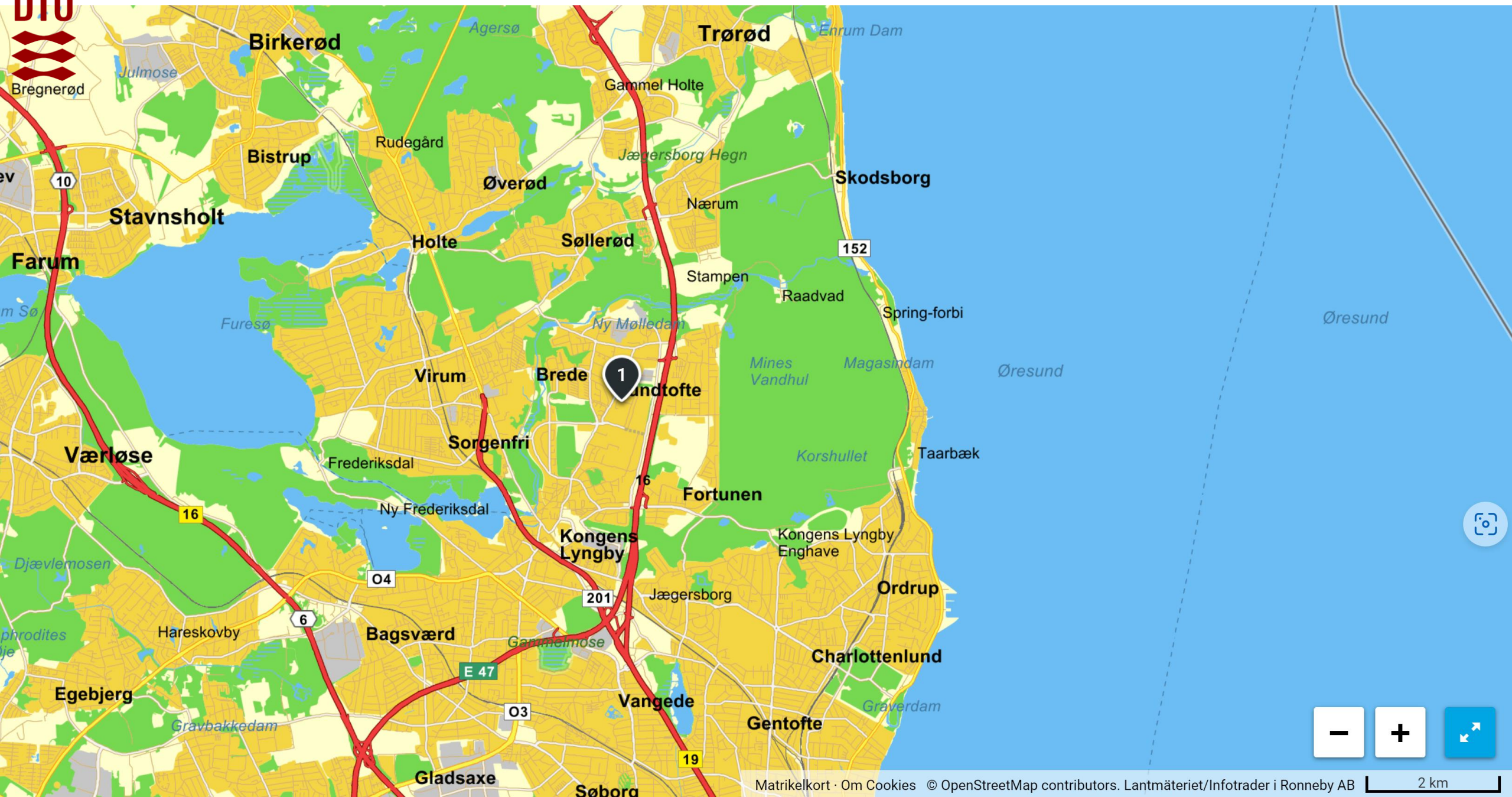


Continuous upscaling

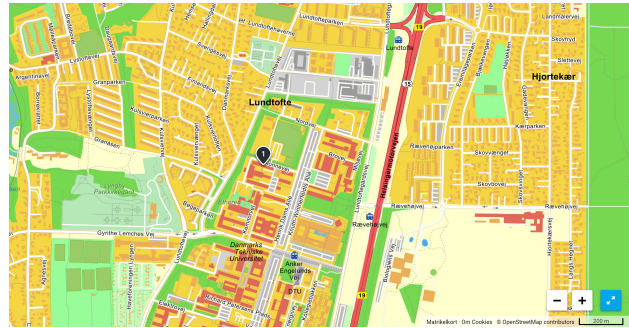




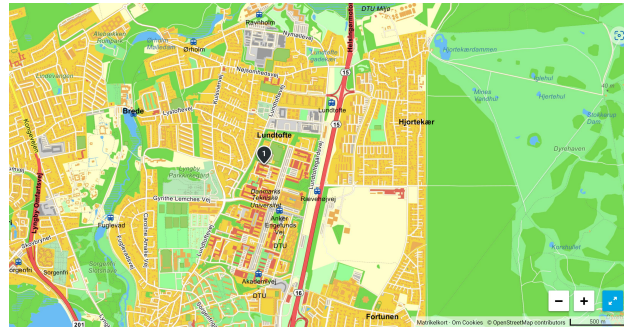




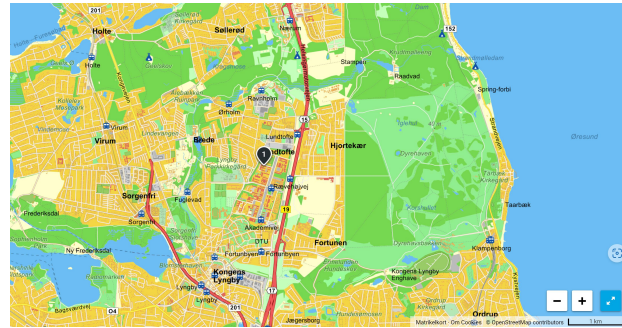
Continuous axis of scales



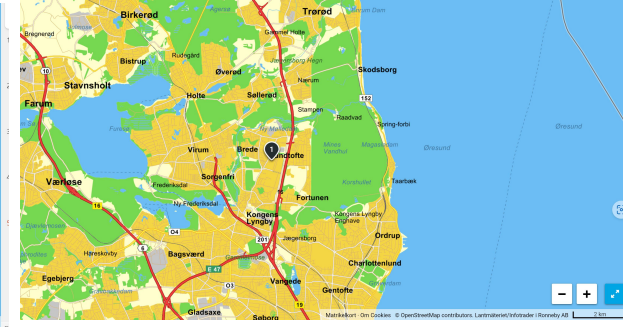
$$\alpha_1 = 1:200$$



$$\alpha_2 = 1:500$$



$$\alpha_3 = 1:1000$$



$$\alpha_4 = 1:2000$$

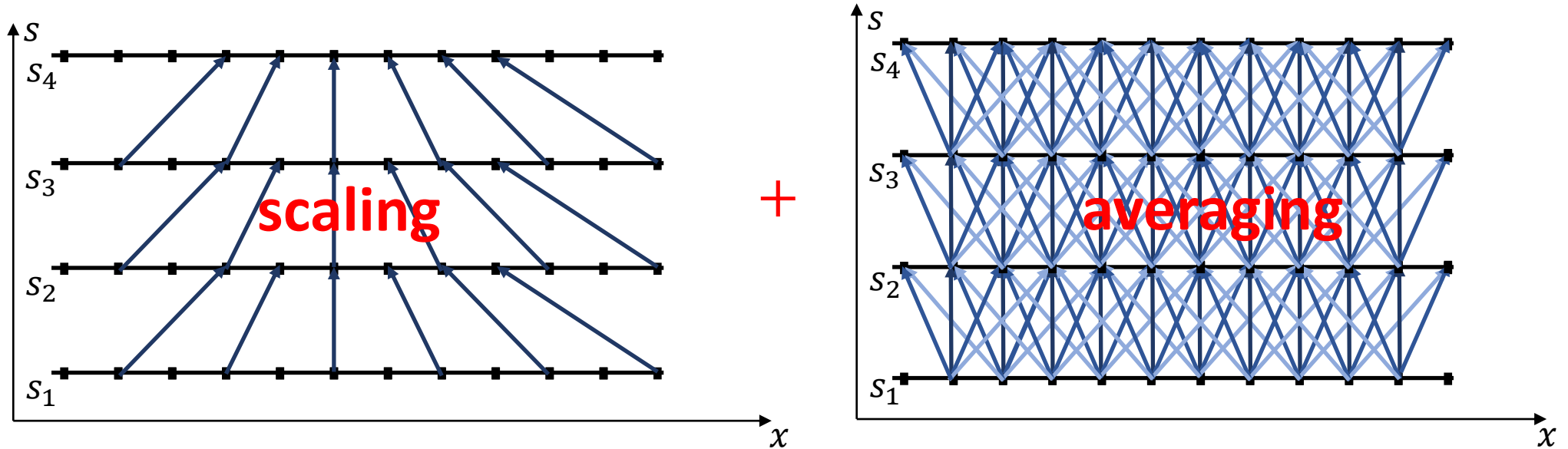


The scale parameter:

$$s = -\ln \alpha$$

s increases from a fine to a coarse scale

Upscaling = Scaling + Averaging (“smoothing”)



Scaling: Simple change of the scale without loss of the detail

Averaging: Smoothing, loss of the resolution

Transition to the “next scale”

Averaging:

$$\langle m \rangle(x) = \langle m(x - \mathbf{Y}) \rangle$$

Scaling:

$$m_{\alpha}(x) = \frac{1}{\alpha} m\left(\frac{x}{\alpha}\right)$$

Scaling after averaging:

$$\langle m \rangle_{\alpha}(x) = \frac{1}{\alpha} \left\langle m\left(\frac{1}{\alpha}(x - \mathbf{Y})\right) \right\rangle$$

Averaging after scaling:

$$\langle m \rangle_{\alpha}(x) = \frac{1}{\alpha} \left\langle m\left(\frac{1}{\alpha}x - \mathbf{Y}\right) \right\rangle$$

- The two expressions are not equivalent

Transition to the “next scale”: Asymptotic expansion

$$\frac{1}{\alpha} = e^s \approx 1 + s; \quad m(x - Y) \approx m(x) - Y \frac{\partial m}{\partial x} + \frac{1}{2} Y^2 \frac{\partial^2 m}{\partial x^2}; \quad \langle Y \rangle = 0:$$

Scaling after averaging:

Averaging after scaling:

$$\langle m \rangle_\alpha(x) = e^s \langle m(e^s(x - Y)) \rangle$$

$$\langle m_\alpha \rangle(x) = e^s \langle m(e^s x - Y) \rangle$$

$$\approx (1 + s) \langle m(((1 + s)x - (1 + s)Y)) \rangle$$

$$\approx (1 + s) \langle m(((1 + s)x - Y)) \rangle$$

$$\approx \langle m(x + (sx - Y)) \rangle + sm(x)$$

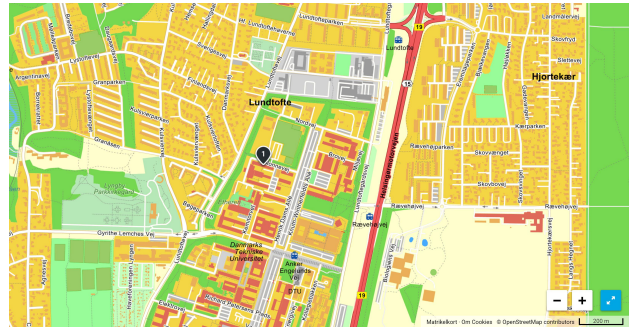
*The two expressions
become equivalent in
the limit of a small step*

Expansion and neglect of the higher-order terms: $\langle m \rangle_\alpha(x) \approx \langle m_\alpha \rangle(x) = m_s(x)$

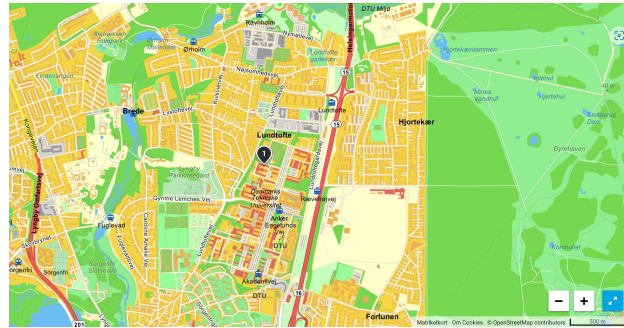
$$\frac{m_s(x) - m(x)}{s} = m(x) + x \frac{\partial m}{\partial x} + \frac{\langle Y^2 \rangle}{2s} \frac{\partial^2 m}{\partial x^2}$$

$$\frac{\partial m_s}{\partial s} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (x m_s) + d_0 \frac{\partial^2 m_s}{\partial x^2}, \quad d_0 = \frac{\langle Y^2 \rangle}{2s}$$

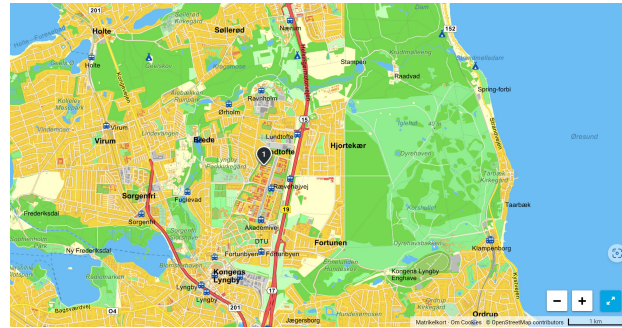
Theory of upscaling: Uniqueness



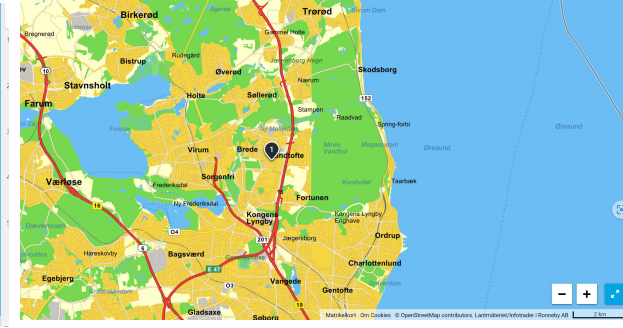
$\alpha = 1:200$



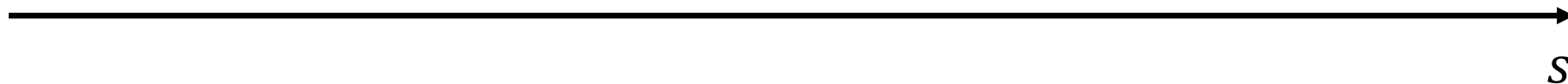
$\alpha = 1:500$



$\alpha = 1:1000$



$\alpha = 1:2000$



Rule 1. If a transition between scales i and j is performed, the “path” does not matter:

$$W_{13} = W_{12}W_{23}$$

Rule 2. The transition should be continuous: If scales 1 and 2 approach each other then W_{12} should tend to unity (identity) transformation.

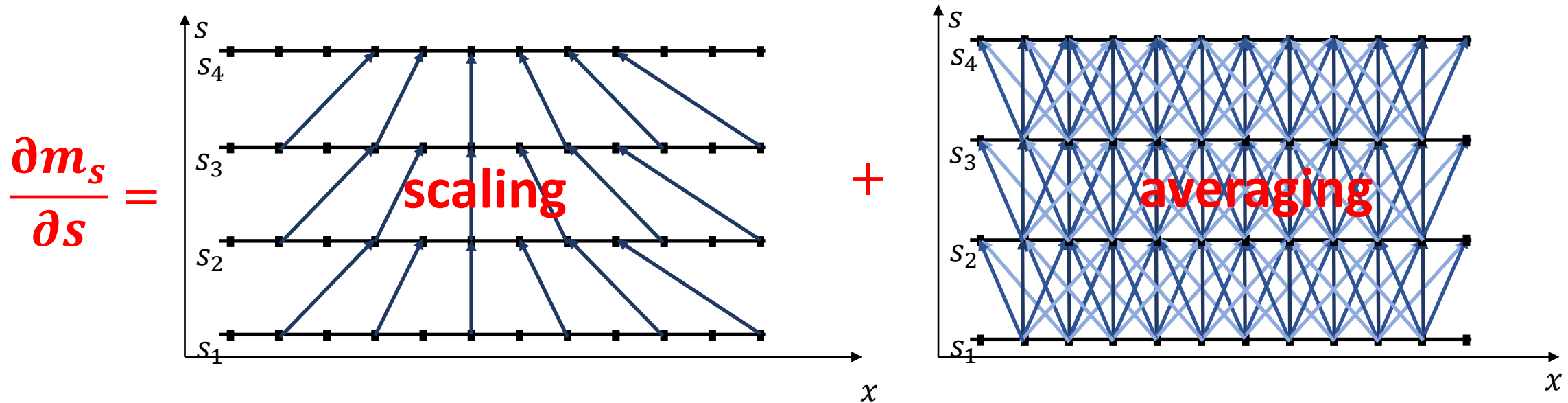
These rules are sufficient to build the mathematics of upscaling and derive the upscaling equation
(similar to the theory of continuous Markov processes)

Upscaling of densities (1D, steady-state flows):

Scale transformation \rightarrow

$$\frac{\partial m_s}{\partial s} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (x - b_0(s)) m_s + d_0 \frac{\partial^2 m_s}{\partial x^2} \quad (*)$$

Scaling \rightarrow Displacement of $x=0$ \rightarrow Smoothing (averaging)



In the limit of infinitely small steps, scaling and averaging are interchangeable.

What needs to be upscaled? The flow equations:

Mass:

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{v}) = q_m$$

Concentration:

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (C \mathbf{v} + J_D) = q_C$$

Momentum:

$$\frac{\partial \rho \mathbf{v}}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{v} \mathbf{v} + P \mathbf{I} + \Pi) = \mathbf{F}$$

Energy:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(E + \frac{\rho v^2}{2} \right) + \nabla \cdot \left(\left(E + \frac{\rho v^2}{2} + P \right) \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{q} \right) = Q$$

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Densities

The diagram consists of a blue rectangular box labeled 'Densities' on the right side. Four blue arrows originate from the left side of this box and point to the rho symbols in the four equations listed on the left. The first arrow points to the rho in the Mass equation. The second arrow points to the C in the Concentration equation. The third arrow points to the rho in the rho*v term of the Momentum equation. The fourth arrow points to the rho in the rho*v^2 term of the Energy equation.

What needs to be upscaled? The flow equations:

Mass:

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{v}) = q_m$$

Densities

Concentration:

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (C \mathbf{v} + J_D) = q_c$$

Fluxes

Momentum:

$$\frac{\partial \rho \mathbf{v}}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{v} \mathbf{v} + P \mathbf{I} + \Pi) = \mathbf{F}$$

Energy:

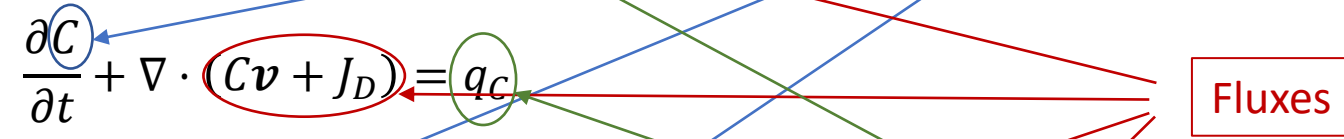
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(E + \frac{\rho v^2}{2} \right) + \nabla \cdot \left(\left(E + \frac{\rho v^2}{2} + P \right) \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{q} \right) = Q$$

What needs to be upscaled? The flow equations:

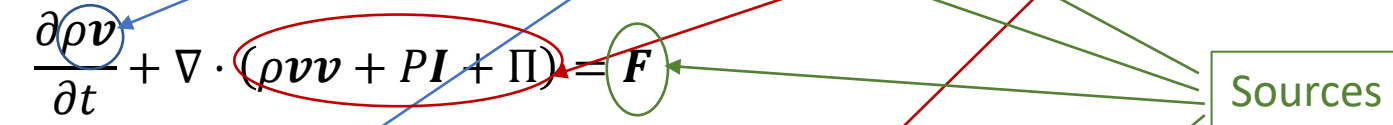
Mass:

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{v}) = q_m$$

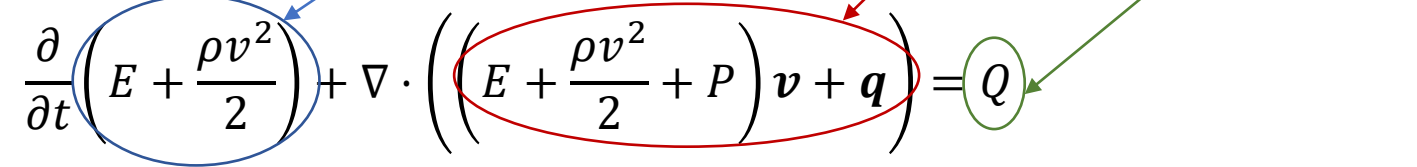

Concentration:

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (C \mathbf{v} + J_D) = q_c$$


Momentum:

$$\frac{\partial \rho \mathbf{v}}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{v} \mathbf{v} + P \mathbf{I} + \Pi) = \mathbf{F}$$


Energy:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(E + \frac{\rho v^2}{2} \right) + \nabla \cdot \left(\left(E + \frac{\rho v^2}{2} + P \right) \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{q} \right) = Q$$


What needs to be upscaled? The flow equations:

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$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{v}) = q_m$$

Densities

Concentration:

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (C \mathbf{v} + J_D) = q_c$$

Fluxes

Momentum:

$$\frac{\partial \rho \mathbf{v}}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{v} \mathbf{v} + P \mathbf{I} + \Pi) = \mathbf{F}$$

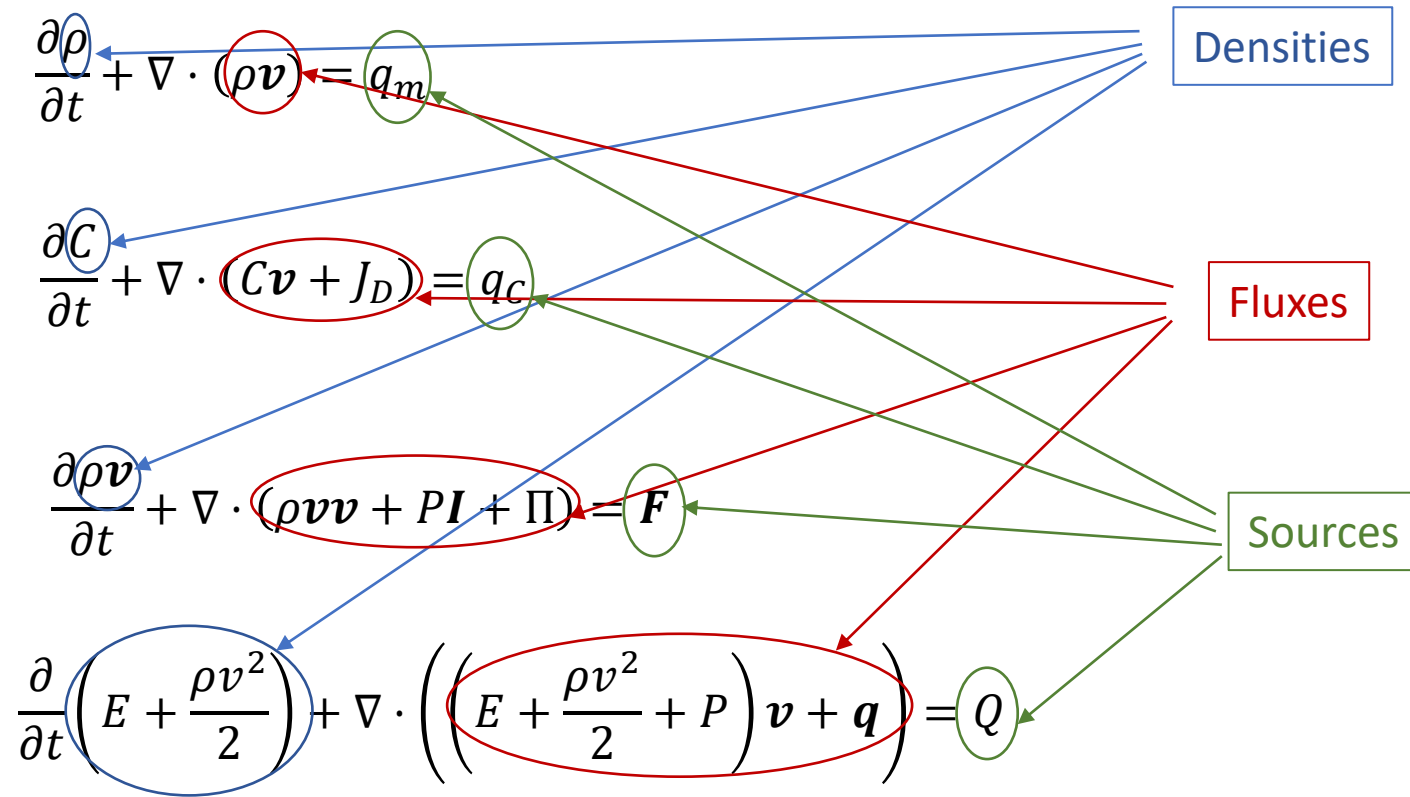
Sources

Energy:

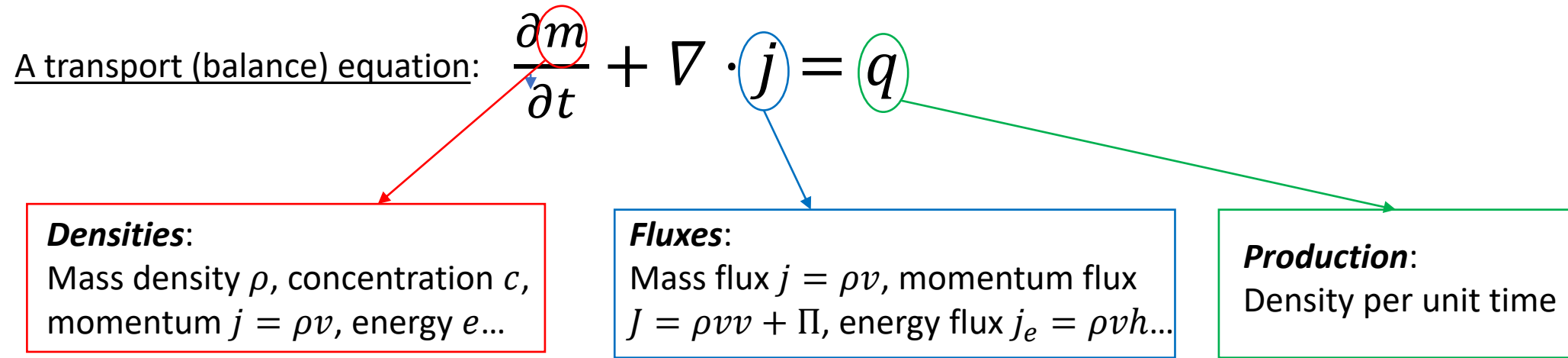
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(E + \frac{\rho v^2}{2} \right) + \nabla \cdot \left(\left(E + \frac{\rho v^2}{2} + P \right) \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{q} \right) = Q$$

General form:

$$\frac{\partial m}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{J} = n$$



What needs to be upscaled



- Different physical values should be upscaled according to the different rules
- The overall form of the equation should be preserved under upscaling

Example: Diffusion equation

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot J_D = q_C, \quad J_D = -D \nabla C$$

1. C is upscaled like density: $\frac{\partial C_s}{\partial s} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (x C_s) + d_0 \frac{\partial^2 C_s}{\partial x^2}$

2. J_D is upscaled like density: $\frac{\partial J_{D,s}}{\partial s} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (x J_{D,s}) + d_0 \frac{\partial^2 J_{D,s}}{\partial x^2}$

//Theorem about upscaling fluxes

3. $q_C, \nabla C$ are upscaled like the derivatives of the density

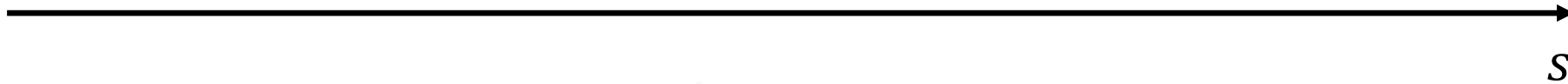
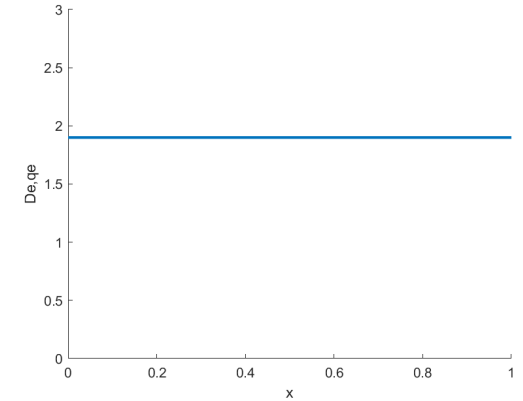
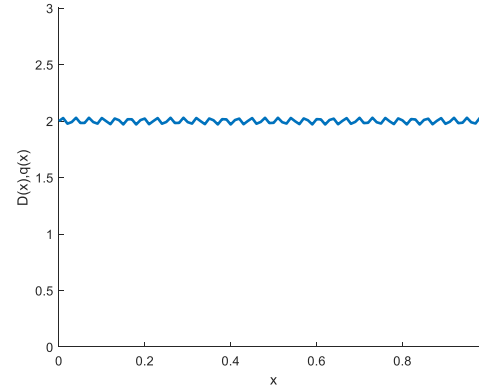
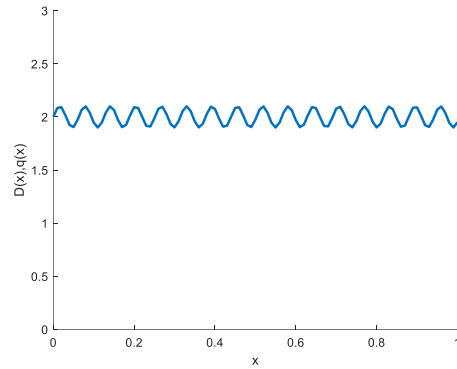
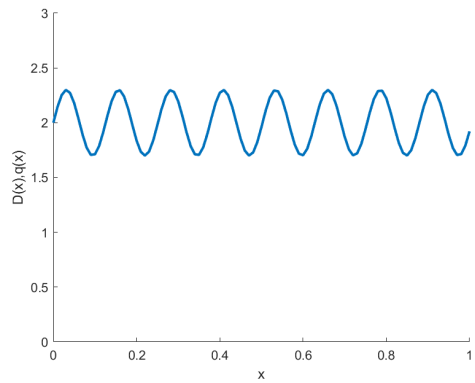
//The rules for upscaling derivatives

4. The rule for upscaling the diffusion coefficient D is derived from upscaling the products ($D \nabla C$).

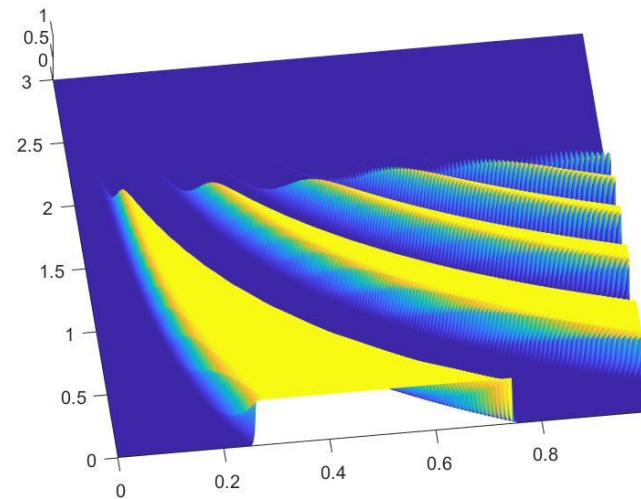
//The rules for upscaling the products

These rules may be different

Continuous upscaling of diffusion coefficient



3D plot:



Convective diffusion equation (1D, steady state)

Original

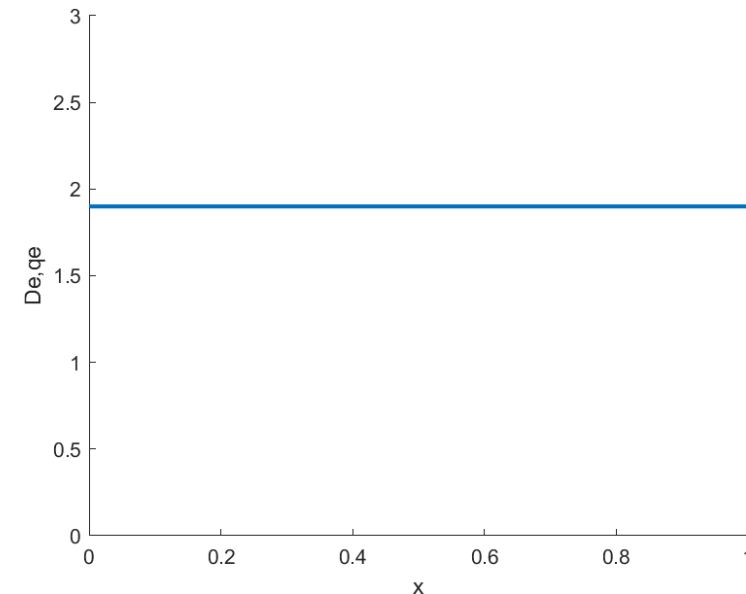
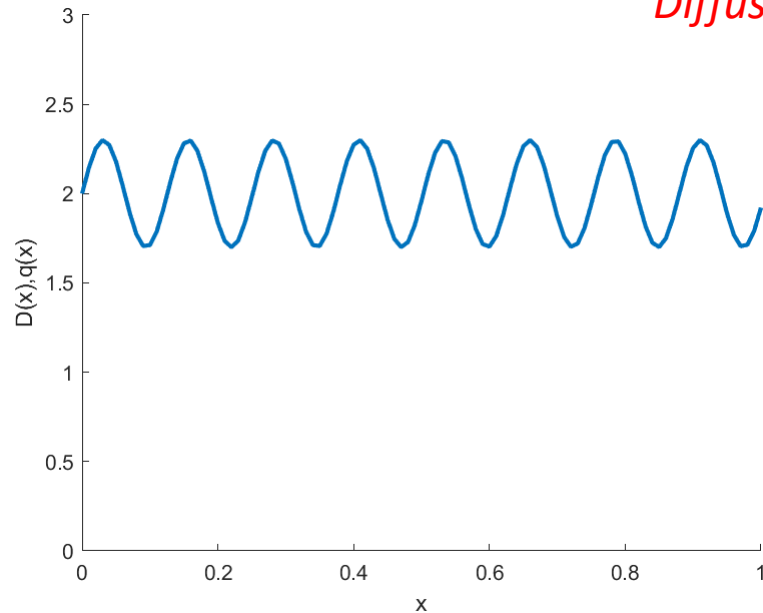
$$\frac{d}{dx} \left(D(x) \frac{dc(x)}{dx} \right) - v \frac{d}{dx} (c(x)) = q(x)$$

Averaged (upscaled)

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left(D_{av} \frac{dc_{av}(x)}{dx} \right) - v_{av} \frac{d}{dx} (c_{av}(x)) = q_{av}$$

Diffusion coefficient

Source term



A procedure for transition from periodic to average diffusion coefficients is to be developed

Case 1: “Just” diffusion equation

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left(D(x) \frac{dc(x)}{dx} \right) = 0$$

Evolution of the diffusion coefficient:

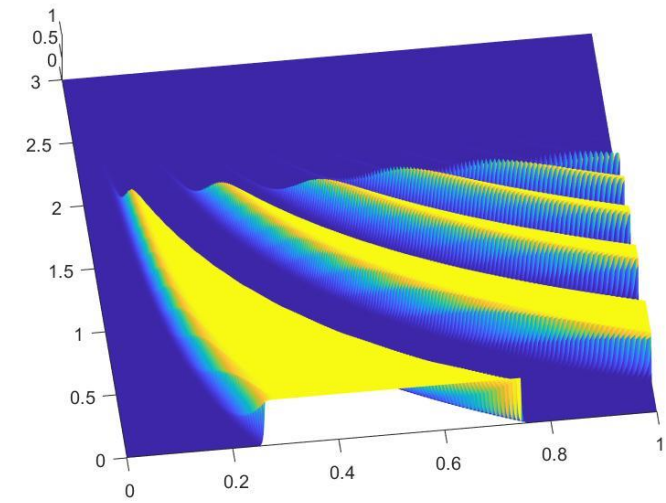
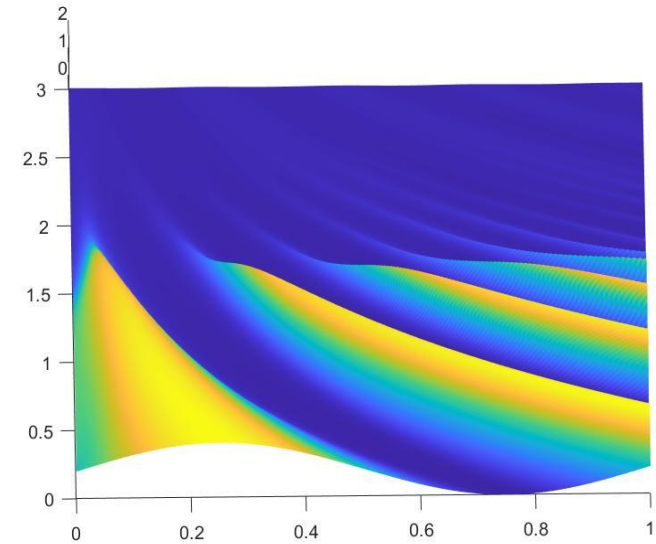
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial s} \left(\frac{1}{D_s(x)} \right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (x - b_0(s)) \frac{1}{D_s(x)} + d_0(s) \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} \left(\frac{1}{D_s(x)} \right)$$

- the inverse diffusion coefficient is upscaled like a density

Asymptotic behavior:

$$\frac{1}{e^s D_s(e^s x)} \rightarrow \left\langle \frac{1}{D_0(x)} \right\rangle - \text{the same as for the direct upscaling}$$

Consequence of scaling



Case 2: Diffusion equation with a source

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left(D(x) \frac{dc(x)}{dx} \right) = q(x), \langle q(x) \rangle = 0$$

Flux

$$J(x) = D(x) \frac{dc(x)}{dx} = J(x_0) + \int_{x_0}^x q(x) dx$$

Boundary condition

$$D(x_0) \frac{dc(x_0)}{dx} = J(x_0)$$

Evolution of the diffusion coefficient:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial s} \left(\frac{J_s(x)}{D_s(x)} \right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (x - b_0(s)) \frac{J_s(x)}{D_s(x)} + d_0(s) \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} \left(\frac{J_s(x)}{D_s(x)} \right)$$

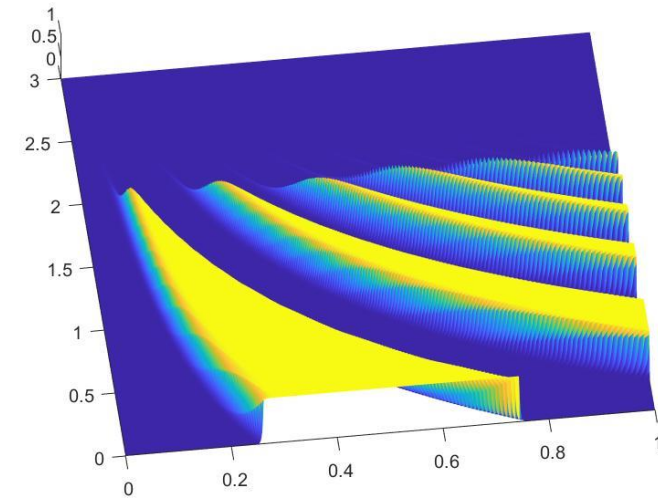
$$\frac{\partial J_s(x)}{\partial s} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (x - b_0(s)) J_s(x) + d_0(s) \frac{\partial^2 J_s(x)}{\partial x^2}$$

the values of $\frac{J_s(x)}{D_s(x)}$ and $J_s(x)$ are upscaled like densities

Asymptotic behavior:

$$\frac{J_s(e^s x)}{e^{2s} D_s(e^s x)} \rightarrow \left\langle \frac{J_0(x)}{D_0(x)} \right\rangle; e^{-s} J_s(e^s x) \rightarrow \langle J_0(x) \rangle$$

- the same as for the direct upscaling

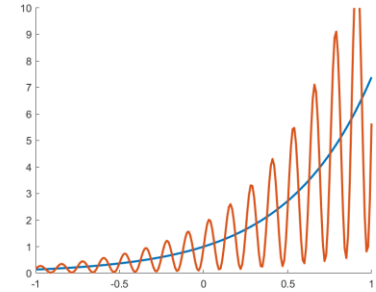


Either velocity, or the boundary conditions are displaced

Case 3: Diffusion with convection

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left(D(x) \frac{dc(x)}{dx} \right) - v \frac{dc(x)}{dx} = 0$$

Evolution of the diffusion coefficient:

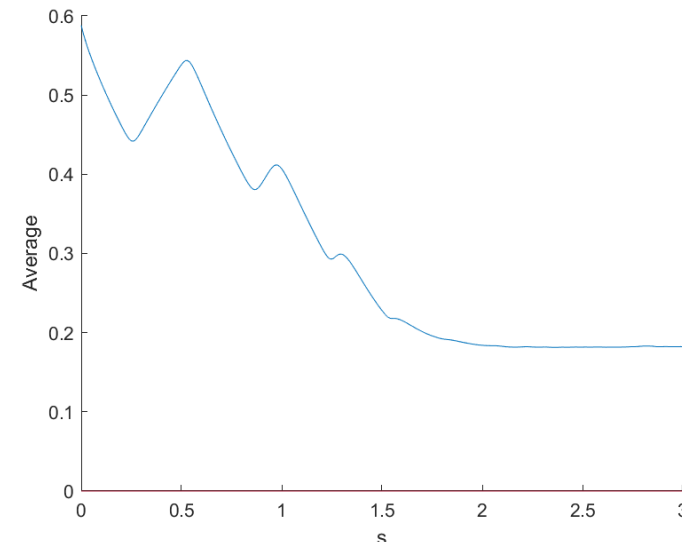
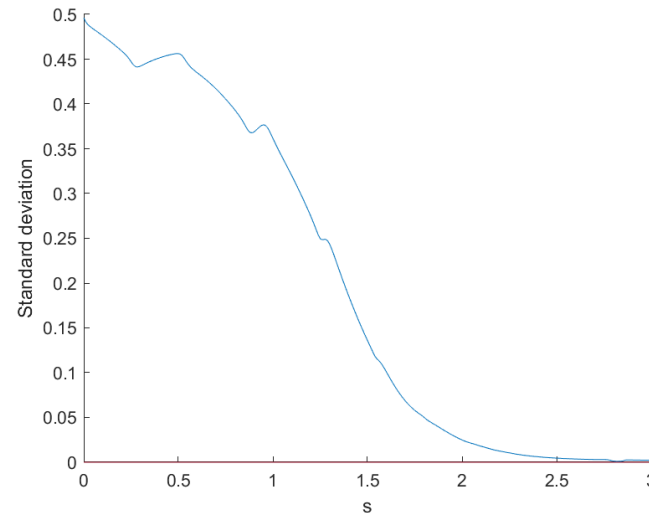


$$\frac{\partial}{\partial s} \left(\frac{1}{D_s(x)} \right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (x - b_0(s)) \frac{1}{D_s(x)} + d_0(s) \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} \left(\frac{1}{D_s(x)} \right) + d_0(s) v \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{1}{D_s(x)^2} \right)$$

Asymptotic behavior:

$$\frac{1}{e^s D_s(e^s x)} \rightarrow \left\langle \frac{1}{D_0(x)} \right\rangle$$

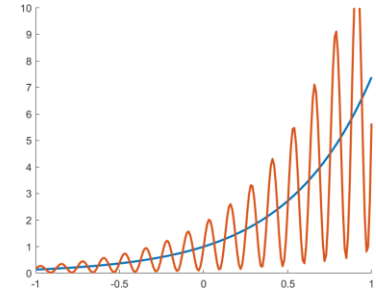
(It seems so, but no proof,
only numerical check)



Diffusion equation with convection

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left(D(x) \frac{dc(x)}{dx} \right) - v \frac{dc(x)}{dx} = 0$$

Evolution of the diffusion coefficient:

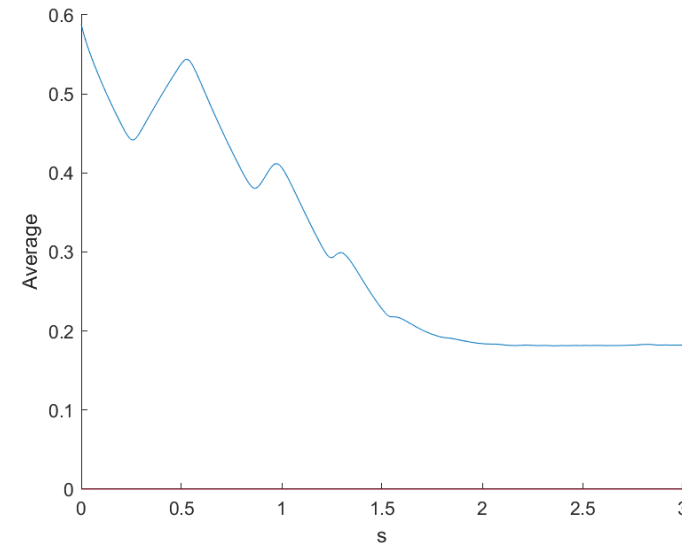
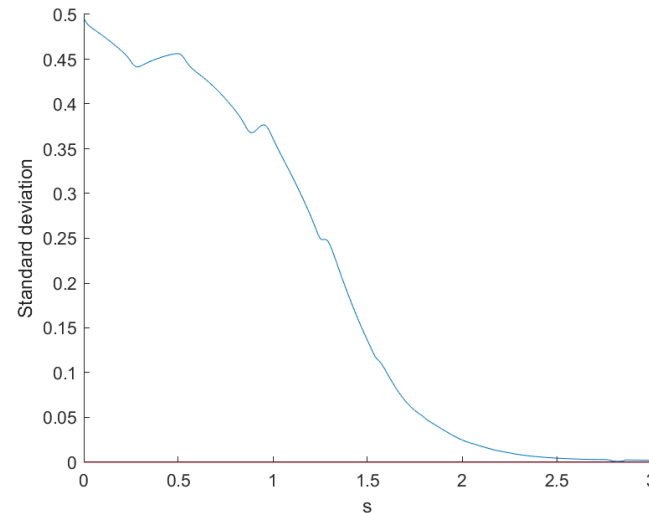


$$\frac{\partial}{\partial s} \left(\frac{1}{D_s(x)} \right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (x - b_0(s)) \frac{1}{D_s(x)} + d_0(s) \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} \left(\frac{1}{D_s(x)} \right) + d_0(s) v \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{1}{D_s(x)^2} \right)$$

Asymptotic behavior:

$$\frac{1}{e^s D_s(e^s x)} \rightarrow \left\langle \frac{1}{D_0(x)} \right\rangle$$

(It seems so, but no proof,
only numerical check)



Diffusion equation with convection

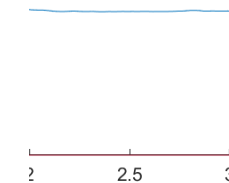
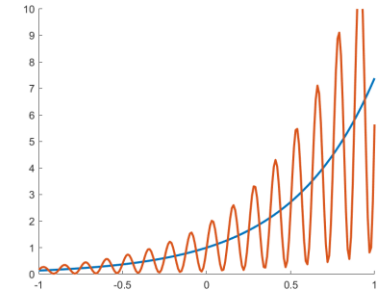
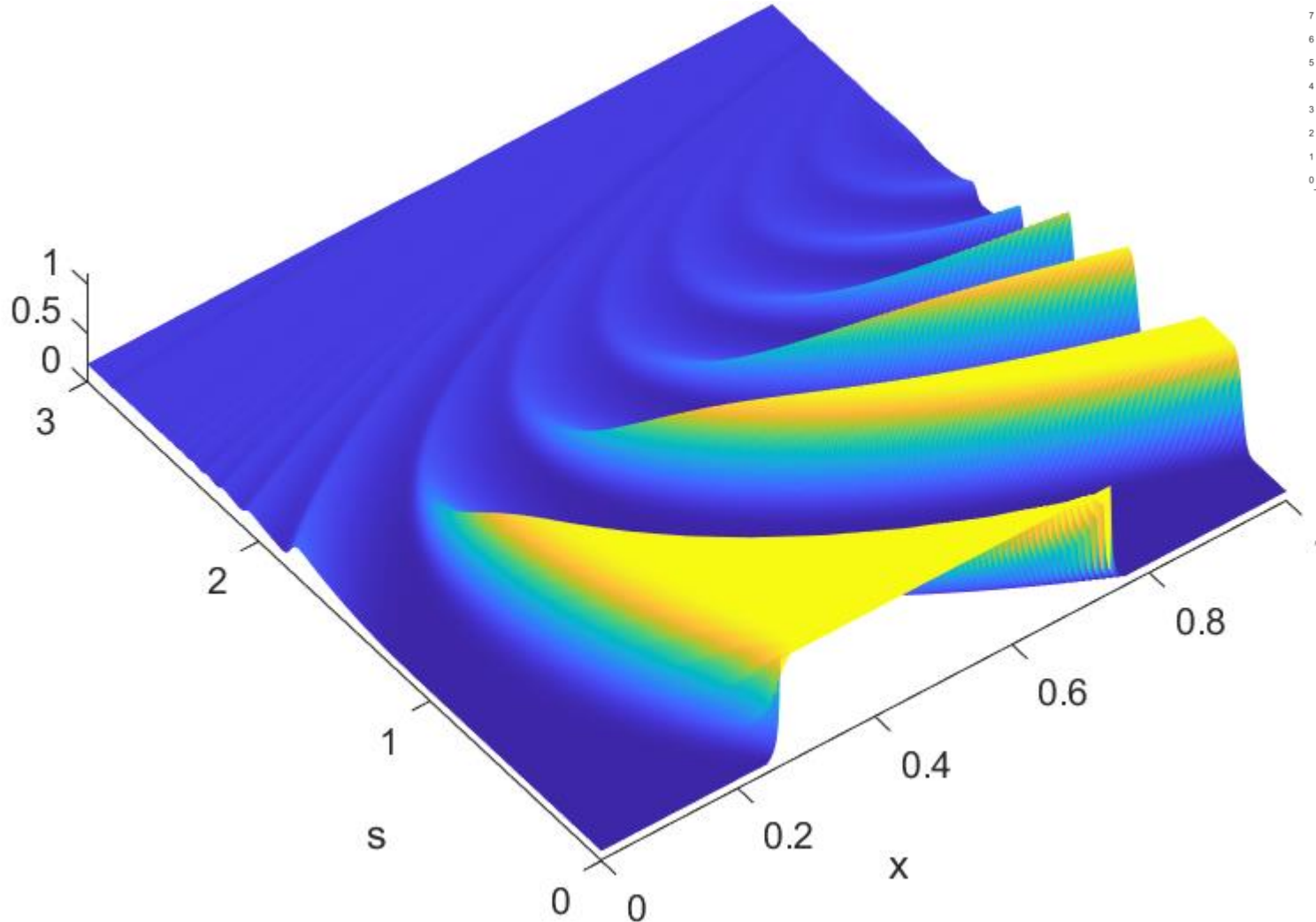
Evolution of t

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial s} \left(\frac{1}{D_s(x)} \right) D^* \exp(s)$$

Asymptotic

$$\frac{1}{e^s D_s(e^s x)}$$

(It seems so,
only numerically)

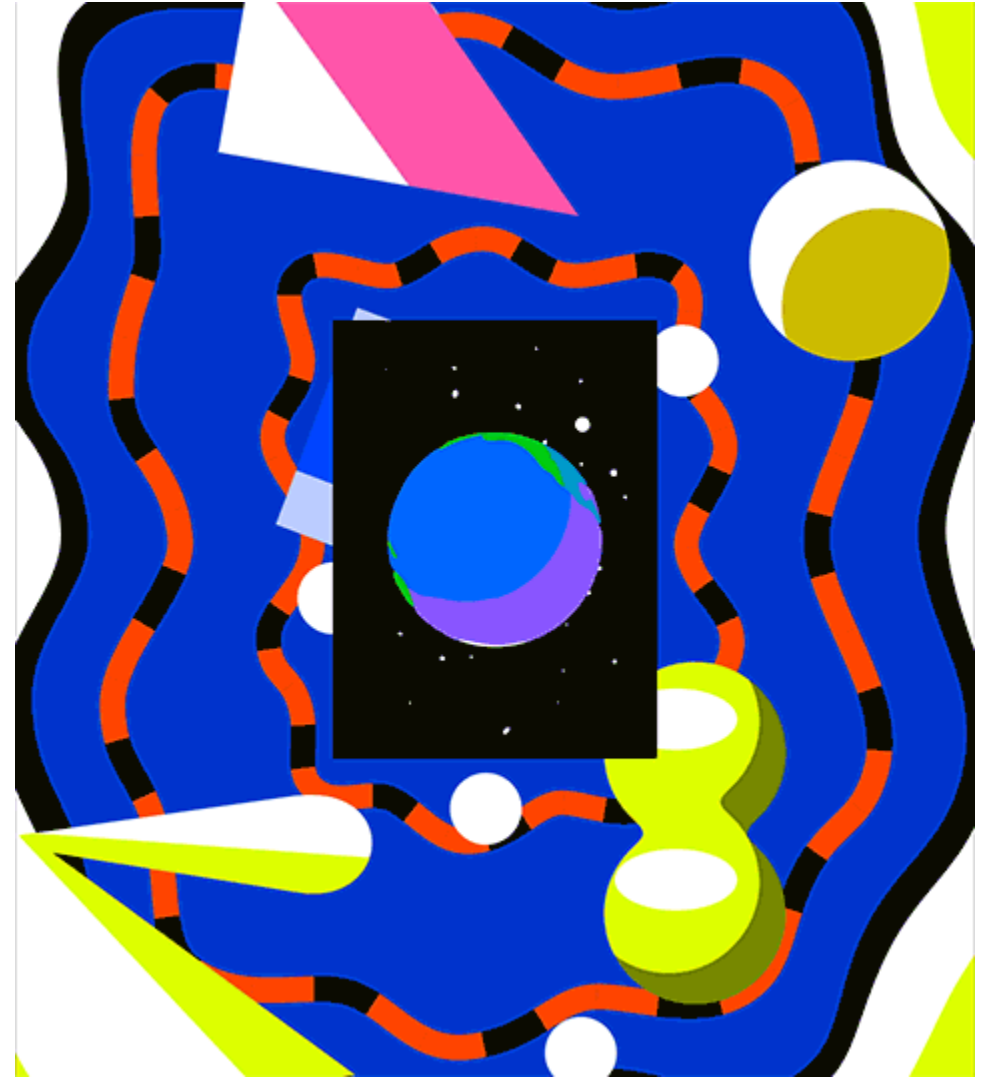


Conclusions

- The theory of continuous upscaling is developed
- The laws for upscaling of densities and fluxes are derived
- The theory is applied to upscaling of the diffusion equation and diffusion coefficients
- Continuous upscaling may be possible and gives asymptotic results even if the direct averaging results in large deviations
- Asymptotic behavior of the continuously upscaled diffusion coefficients is the same as under direct averaging
- In the case of convective diffusion, large differences between fine-scale and core-scale solutions cannot be eliminated

Thank you!

Questions?



"Unity Universe" by Peter Steineck