



# IDAJ Conference Online 2023

## Advanced CFD Setup with DoE using iconCFD Process

Prepared by:

Pedro Rubio, Sebastian Geller

[p.rubio@iconcf.com](mailto:p.rubio@iconcf.com), [s.geller@iconcf.com](mailto:s.geller@iconcf.com)

Nov 2023



# Agenda



Introduction

Aerodynamic Setup

Morphing Boxes Setup

DoE Setup

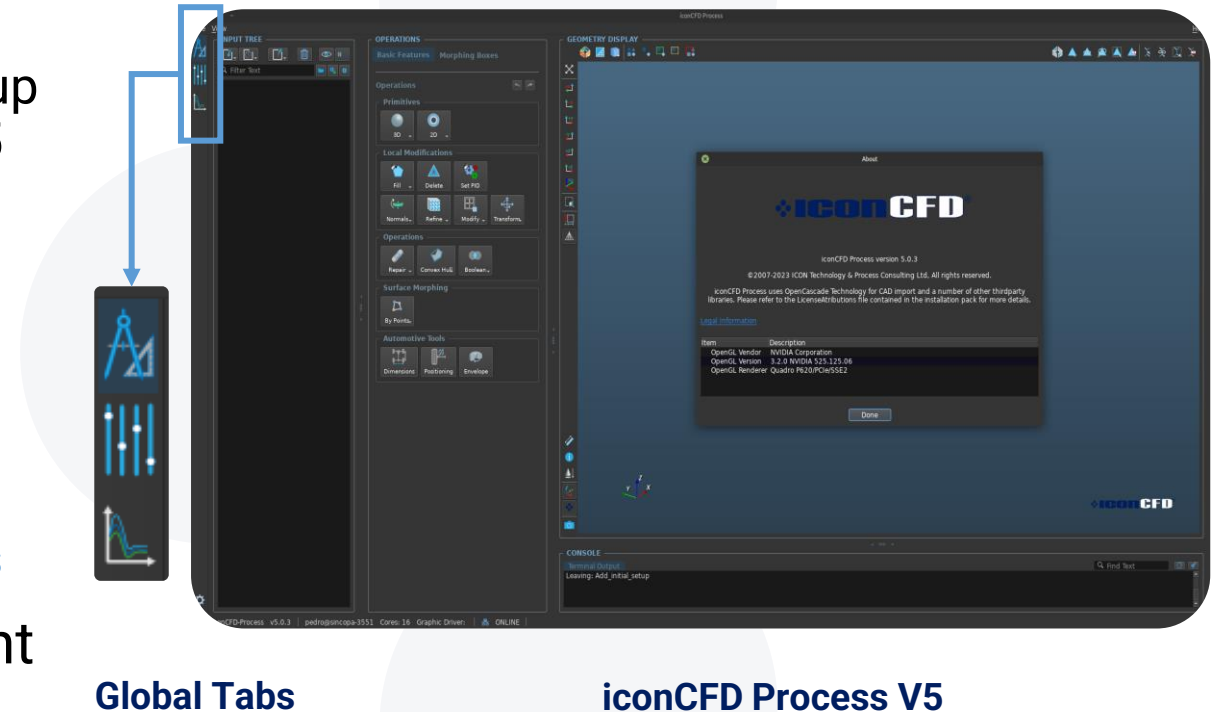
Conclusions



# Introduction

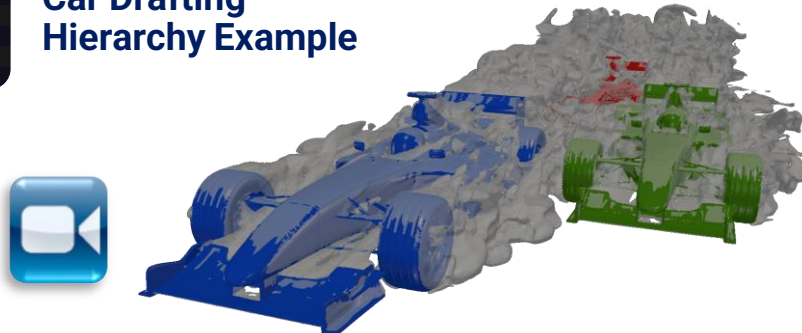
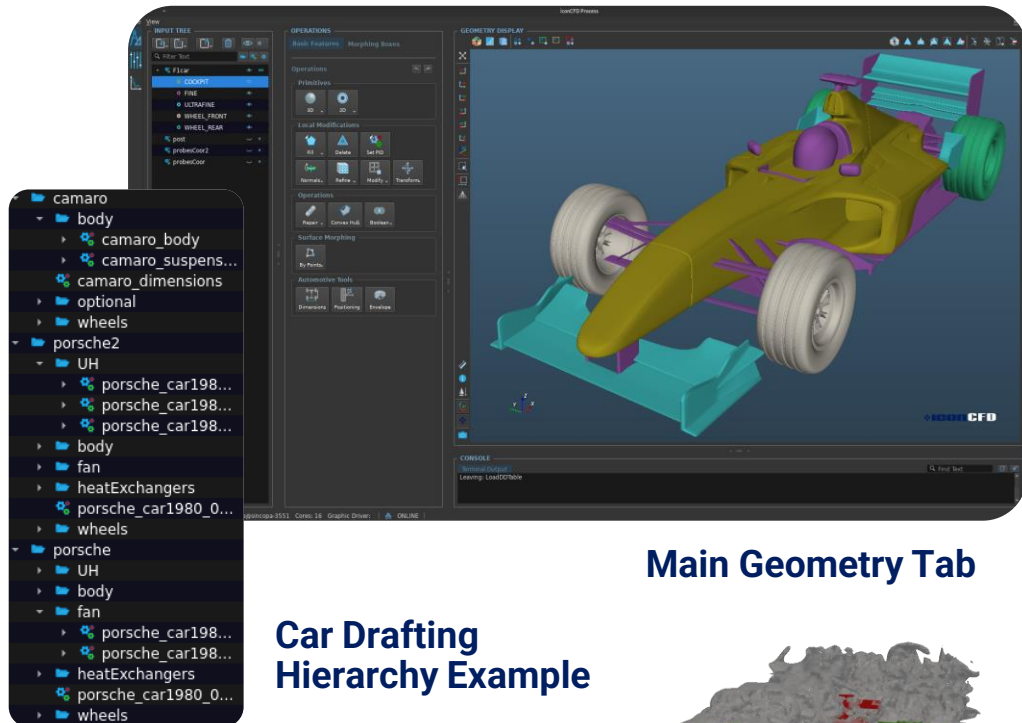
## iconCFD Process

- Main Objective
  - Overview a design of experiment (DoE) setup with geometric morphing using iconCFD V5
  - Input geometry: car (*drivAer*, sedan variant)
- iconCFD V5 includes iconCFD Process
  - An intuitive **pre/post-processing tool**
  - From **geometry editing**, **setup** and **post-processing**
  - Full feature **support of all iconCFD modules**
- iconCFD Process is supported on different OS and offers different interfaces
  - OS: Windows/Linux
  - Interface: GUI and API/CLI



# Introduction

## Process Layout: Geometry Tab



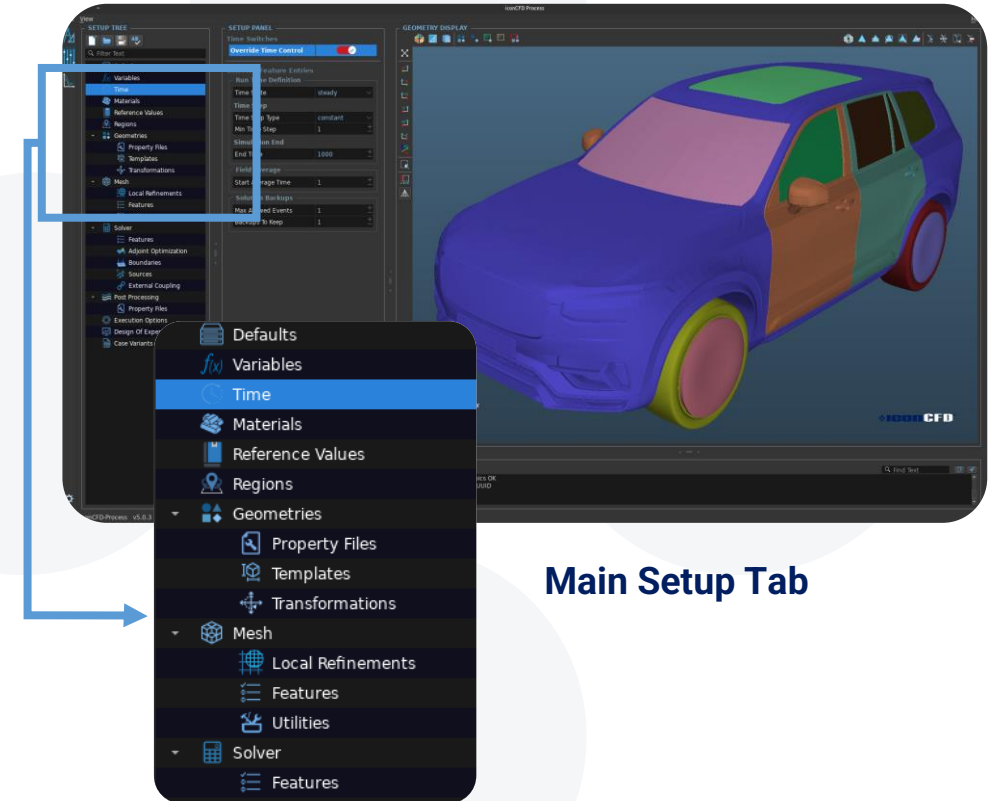
- Input Tree: files/folders can be imported and organized (into hierarchies)
  - Especially useful when working with large geometry assemblies or variant studies: e.g. car drafting
  - When case is exported, the full structure (as displayed in the *Input Tree*) is saved into a folder
- Operations: contains geometry/morphing operations in two tabs
  - *Basic Features*: Primitives, geometry editing etc.
  - *Morphing Boxes*: Parametric morphing boxes features
- Geometry Display: 3D render window for visualization and interaction



# Introduction

## Process Layout: Setup Tab

- Setup Tree: step-by-step wizard (from top to bottom)
  - Each node contains a setup category
  - When one node is selected, relevant properties will be shown in the Setup Panel
- Setup Panel: current node properties
  - Contains a group of feature switches available
  - When one switch is selected, relative inputs will be shown in the lower panel area
  - Allows user to modify/override feature defaults
- Geometry Display: 3D render window
  - Shared with the Geometry tab



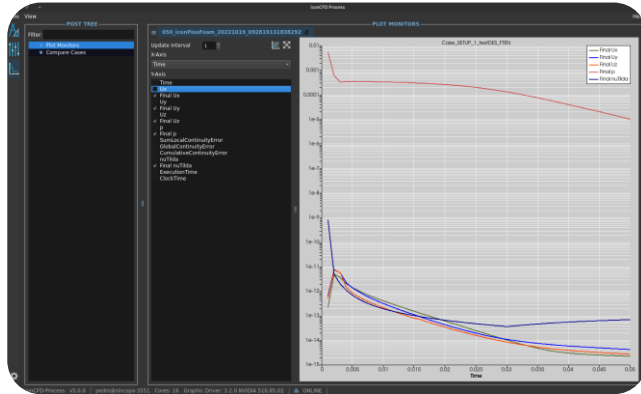
**Main Setup Tab**



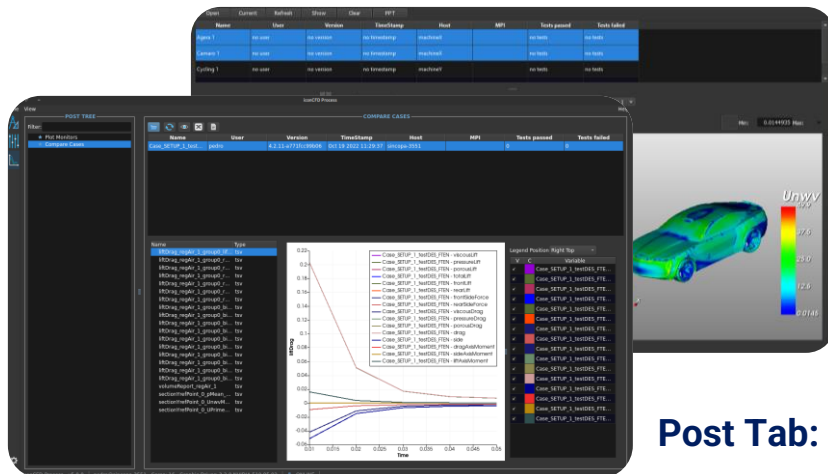


# Introduction

## Process Layout: Post Tab



Post Tab: Plot



Post Tab: Compare cases

- Post Tree: contains post-processing categories
  - Run time monitoring: Plotting
  - Case output overview and comparison
- Post Properties: displays options
  - Specific to the active category selected in the Post Tree
- Post Display: different display types
  - 2D line charts when the run monitoring is selected
  - From text to images to surface fields when the comparison category is selected
    - Selected items can be saved to a ppt file



# Aerodynamic Setup

## Geometry Tab: Files Input

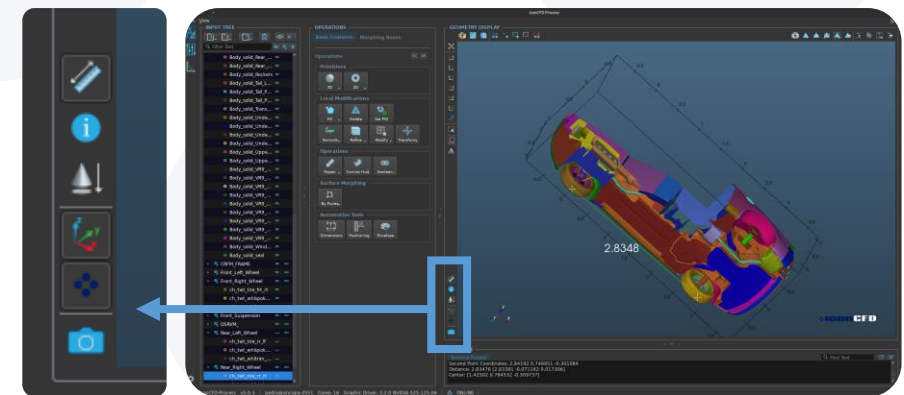
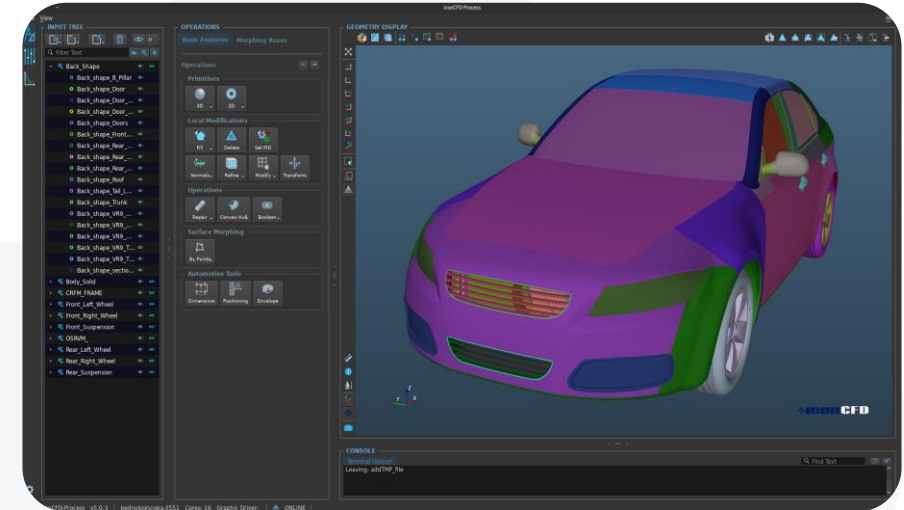


drivAer assembly

- External Aero setup walkthrough
- **Import** files: load all *drivAer* assemblies
  - Geometry is ready: no operations or PID management
- **Verifications**: Geometry Display
  - Dimensions: *ruler* and *bounding grid* toolbar buttons
  - Area: *area* toolbar button
  - Geometry browsing: hide/show
    - Input tree: file/PID through eye icon
    - Geometry Display: selections with *OR/AND/NOT* logic



Visualization and Selection Toolbars



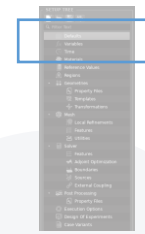
Information Toolbar

Hide faces and measurements



# Aerodynamic Setup

## Setup Tab: Defaults, Time & Materials



Defaults, Time and Material Nodes

- Default Node
  - Setup name: *drivAer* (representative string)
  - *default* as main **settings group** is selected
- Time Node
  - Initial **simulation times** are sufficient for this case
  - Number of backups can be updated if required
- Materials
  - **Database** activation: *air* properties definition
  - Custom **materials** can also be created



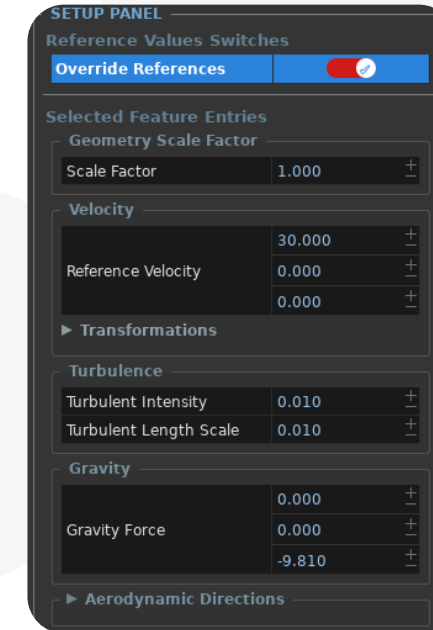
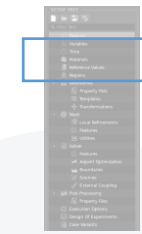


# Aerodynamic Setup

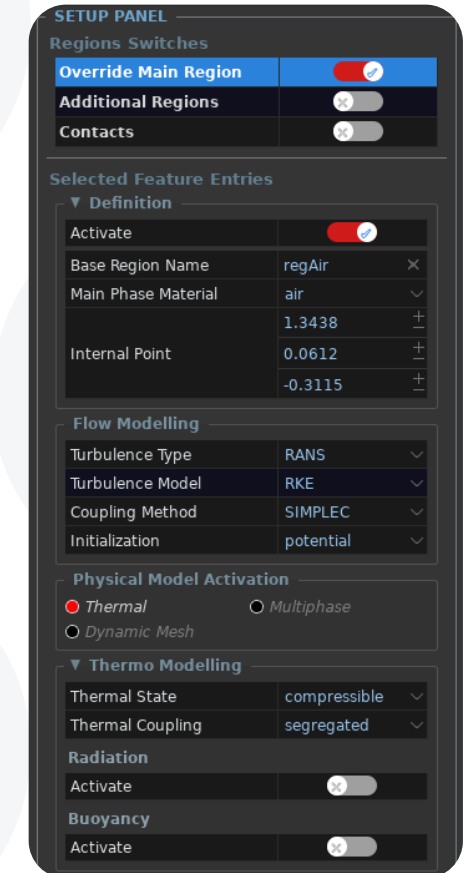
## Setup Tab: Reference Values & Regions



- Reference Values
  - Scale factor updated to 1 (geometry in meters)
  - Other values remain in their default state
- Regions
  - Default *air* material is selected from the database
  - Internal point to isolate the region domain
    - Right mouse button: *Coordinate picker*
  - Flow modeling: keep initial definition
  - Physical model activation: Thermal activation with default options



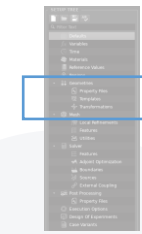
Reference Values Node



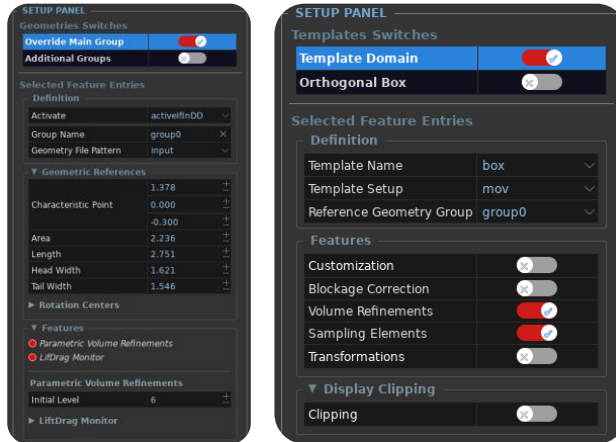
Regions Node

# Aerodynamic Setup

## Setup Tab: Geometry Groups & Templates



### Group and Template Definition

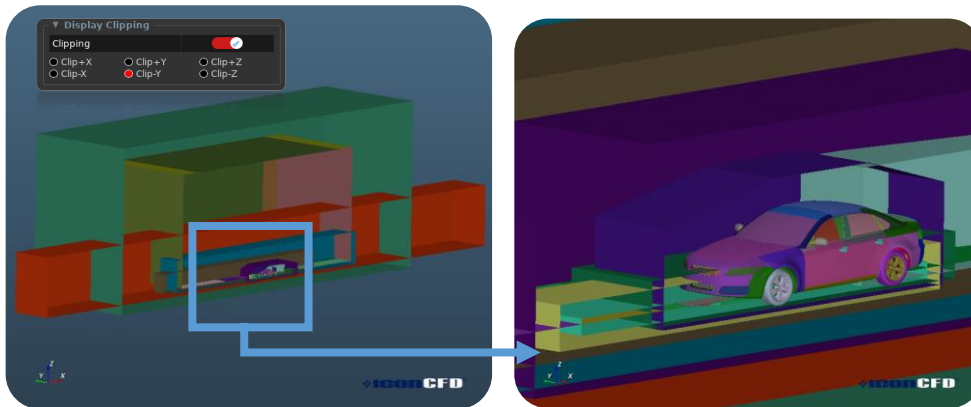


### • Geometry Groups

- To simplify geometry selection step on other features
- **Main group** (*group0*) activation
  - Selection: all *input* geometry
  - Area: measured in display (*area* button) and copied
  - Tracks and wheelBase: measured with the *ruler* and copied
  - Reference Point: *Coordinate picker* will be used

### • Templates Database

- Selected by domain/setup names: *box* and *mov*
  - Include mesh and BC definition
  - Parameterized through variables: e.g. inlet velocity
- Placement defined from *group0* reference point
- **Clipping**: template can be clipped and displayed



### Template Clipping

# Aerodynamic Setup

## Setup Tab: Mesh

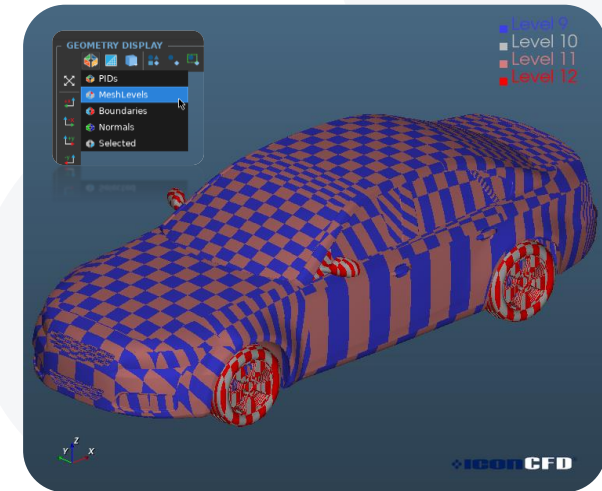
- Mesh definition updated with a **Base Size** of 3m
  - Background grid: to see geometry vs. mesh levels
- Local Refinements at side mirrors and wheels
  - Level 10, 6 layers and 2 curvature offset
- Other parts will have:
  - Default surface: Level 9 and 4 layers
  - Global curvature refinement: 2 offset
  - Global distance refinement: Level 8 within 0.01m
- Mesh levels overview inside Display
  - **Geometries can be colored by mesh levels**
  - Textures will be used when mesh levels are defined as a range (chessboard pattern)



**Mesh  
Definition**



**Mesh Level  
visualization**

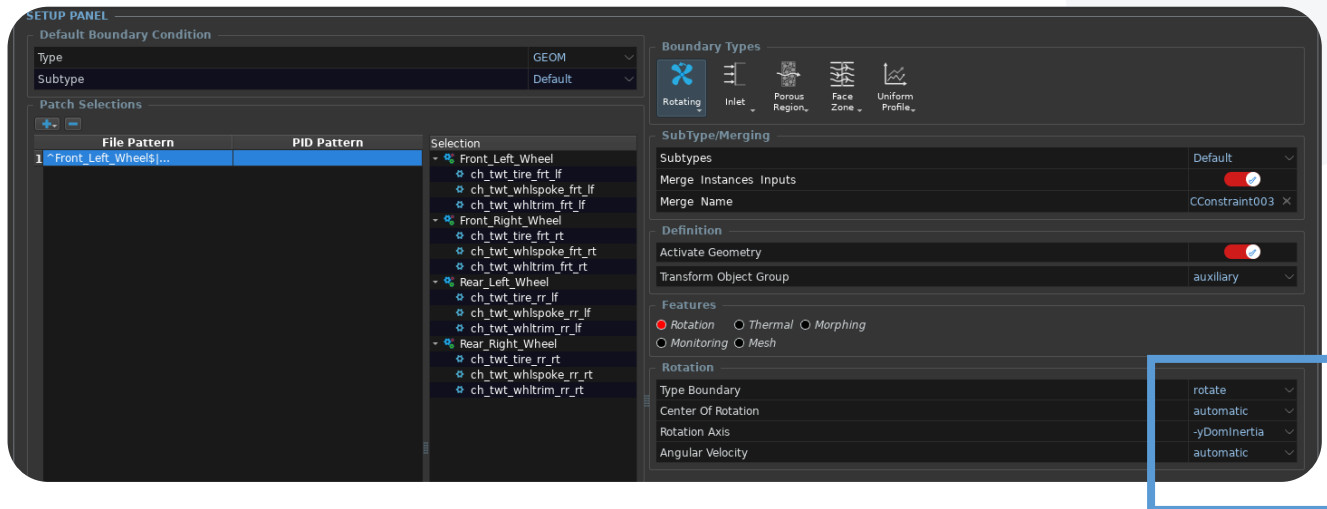


# Aerodynamic Setup

## Setup Tab: Boundary Conditions (BC)



- Rotating BC set on wheels with automatic methods (center, axis and rotation velocity)
- On other parts, default BC will be kept: adiabatic static wall
- BC definition overview inside display: equivalent to the mesh levels



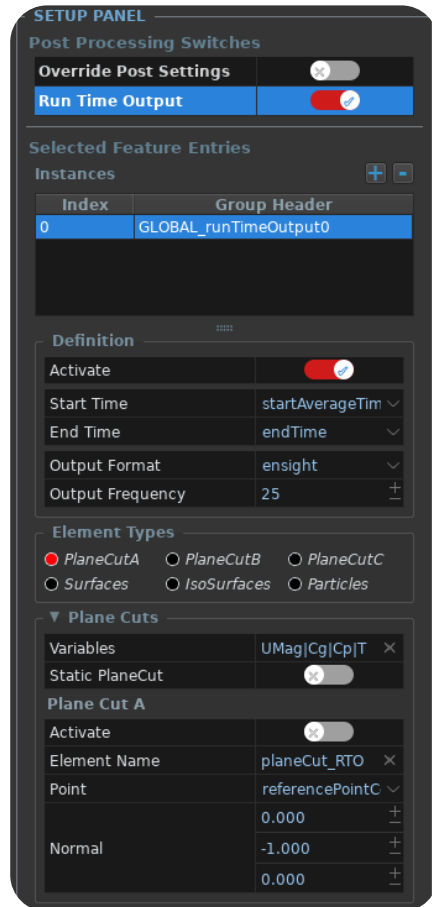
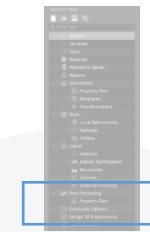
Rotating BC



BC visualization

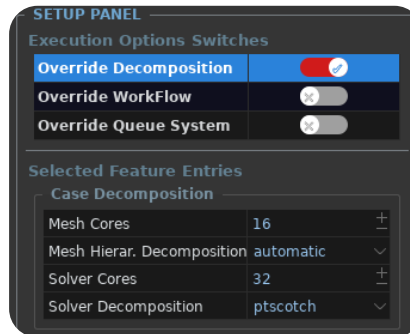
# Aerodynamic Setup

## Setup Tab: RTO, Execution and Export

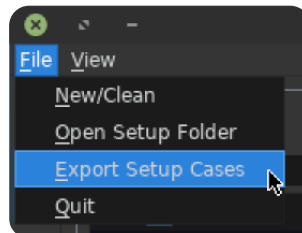


Post-Processing Node

### Decomposition Node



### Export Cases

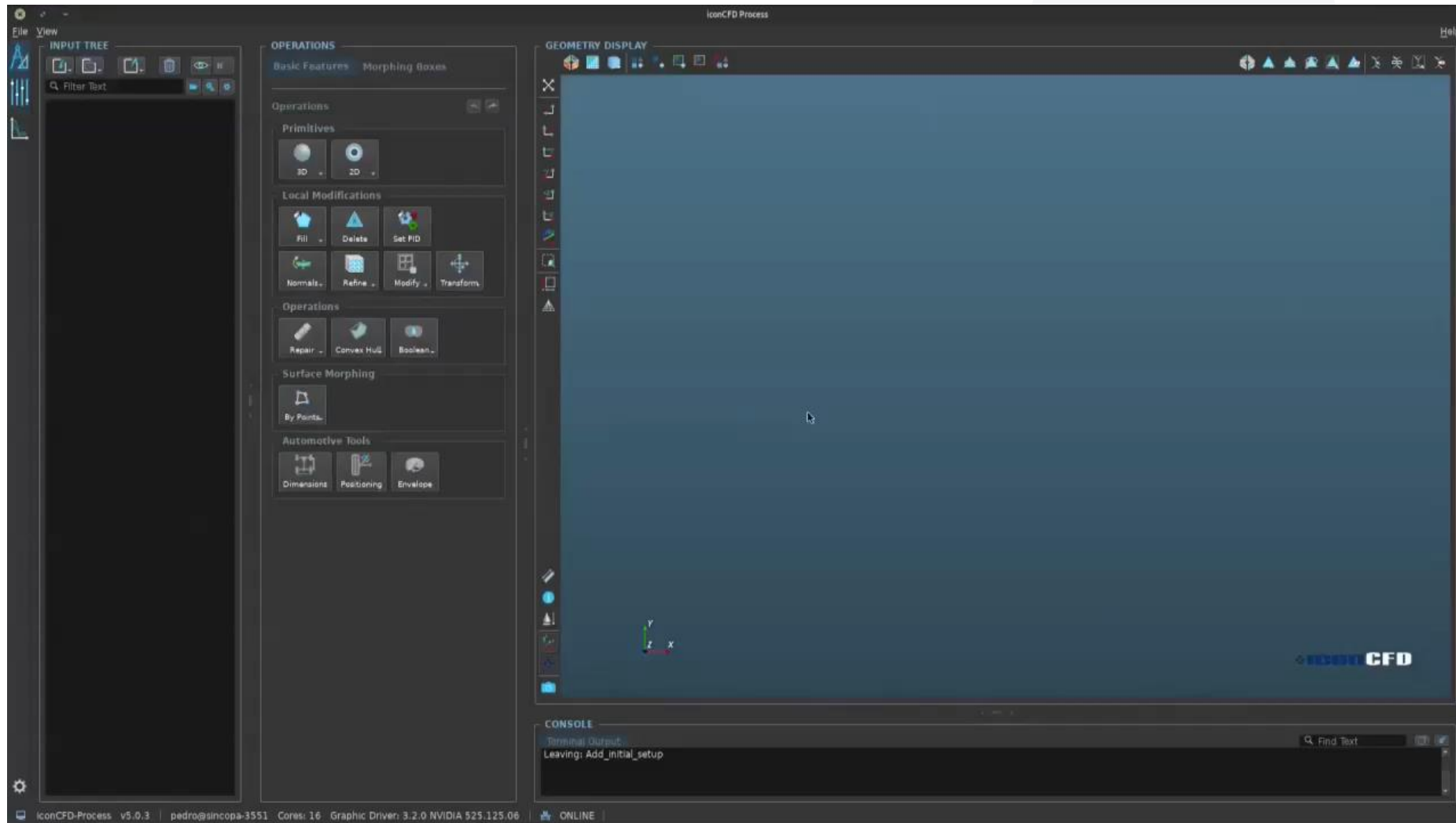


- Post-processing: 1 Run Time Output
  - *PlaneCut* at main group *refPoint* in -Y direction
- Execution Options: Decomposition
  - Mesher: 16 cores *hierarchical*
  - Solver: 32 *ptScotch*
- Export case through *File* menu
  - **Export Setup Cases** dialog to select the output folder
  - Console log expanded to show output evolution
  - Final setup files will be created in some seconds





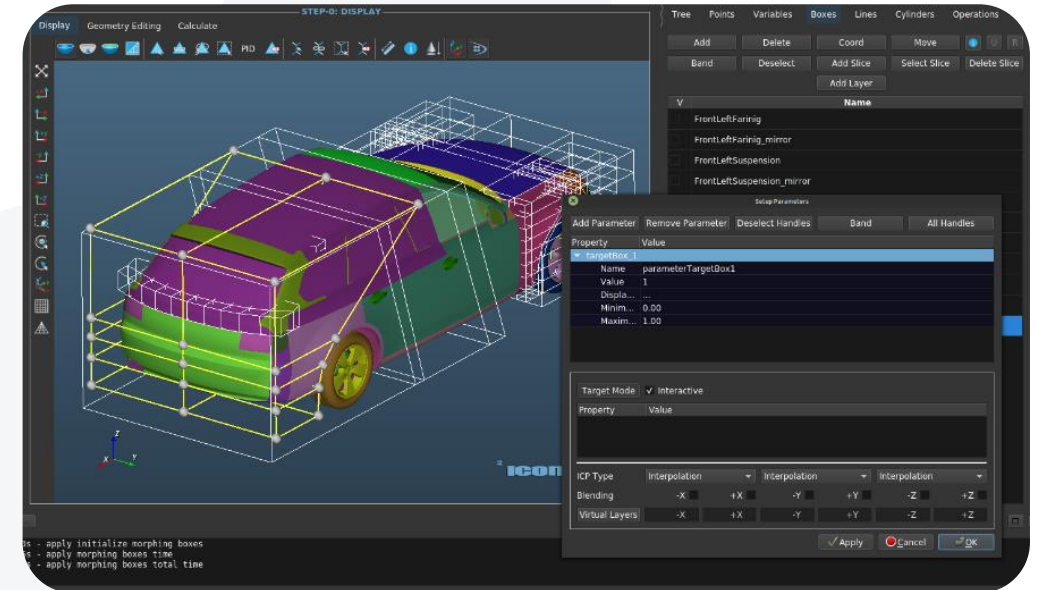
# Aerodynamic Setup Demo Video



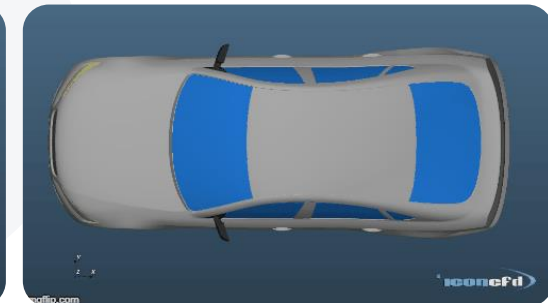
# Morphing Boxes Setup

## Geometry Tab: Definition and Session Files

- Morphing boxes require an **hexahedral grid** around the assemblies to control how the geometry inside will change when the handles (vertex from the grid) are moved
- **Variables**/parameters can be defined as a prescribed movement over a set of handles
  - It is recommended to define an input range per variable
- Once the morphing setup is defined/verified, it can be saved
  - **JSON files**



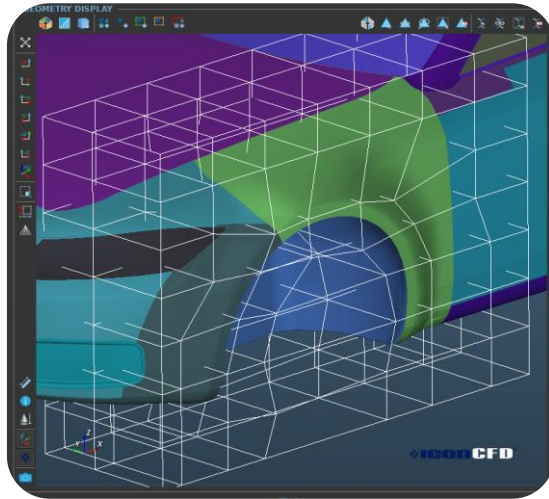
Complex Morphing Box Setup



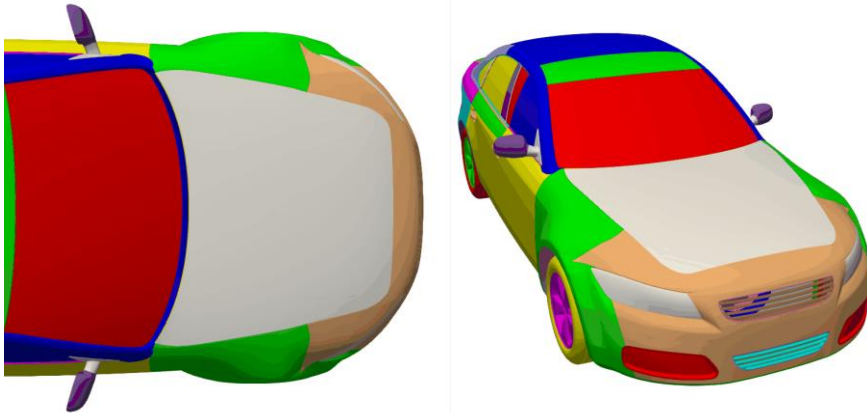
drivAer morphing examples

# Morphing Boxes Setup

## Geometry Tab: Morphing Boxes Walkthrough



Left Morphing Box



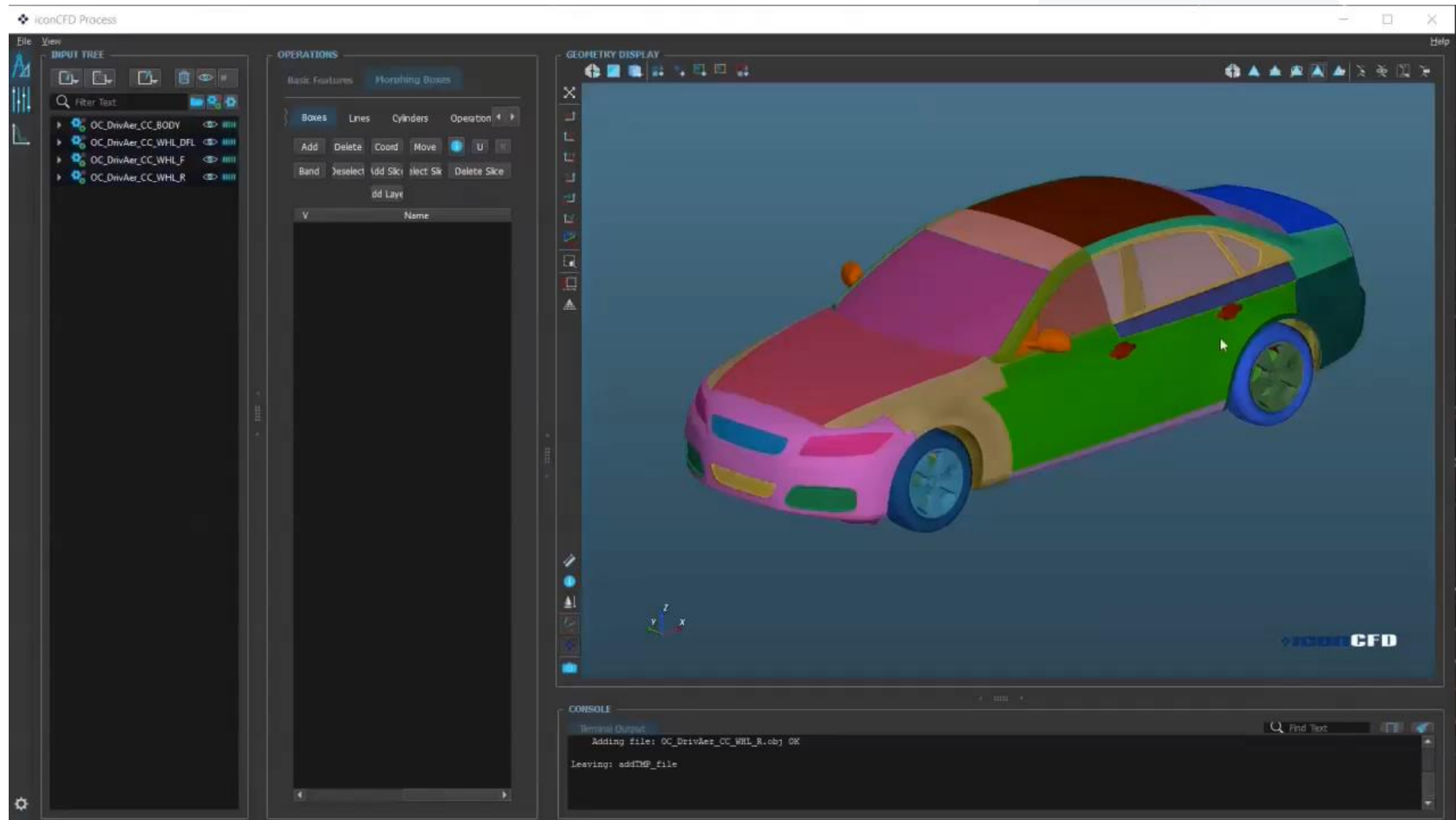
Front Fairing Morphing

- Left Fairing morphing
  - Box **created** around a geometry selection. Grid split and adapted to the main shape
  - Added a variable (**displacement**) with the wheel arch handles. Default movement: 0.1m in -Y
  - Morphing box operation: box with the geometry to morph
- Right Fairing morphing
  - Box **mirrored** from left (variable auto-updated +Y direction)
  - Another equivalent morph operation is added for this side
- **Apply** morph operations (**verification purpose**)
  - Both variables are populated with the target magnitudes
  - A morph folder will be created inside Input tree
- Save morphing **session files**



# Morphing Boxes Setup

## Demo Video

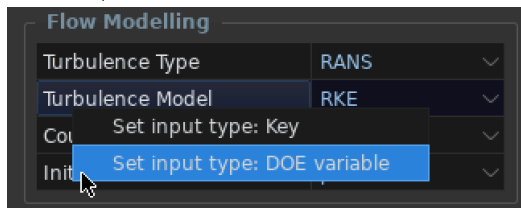


# DoE Setup

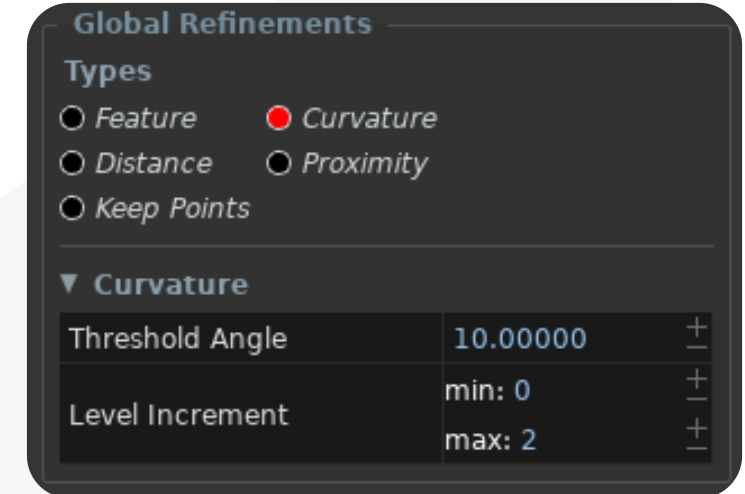
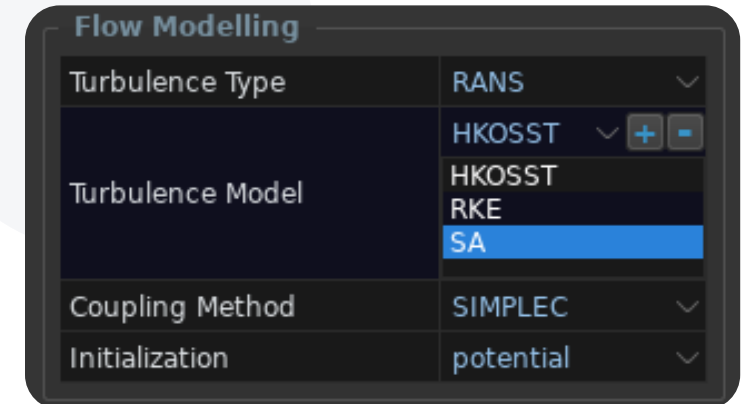
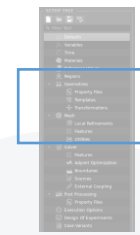
## Setup Tab: Variable Definition

- Starting point

- Aerodynamic setup: loaded now
- Saved morphing session files: to be included on next steps
- At the Variables node, DoE switch will be activated
- Right-clicking on the description field of any entry will pop up a context menu allowing the user to modify the input type as **DoE variable**
  - Regions (Turbulence): List with HKOSST, RKE and SA types
  - Mesh (global curvature offset): Integer from 0 to 2



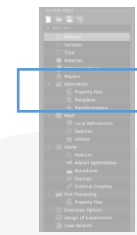
Context menu with DoE



Setup DOE Variables

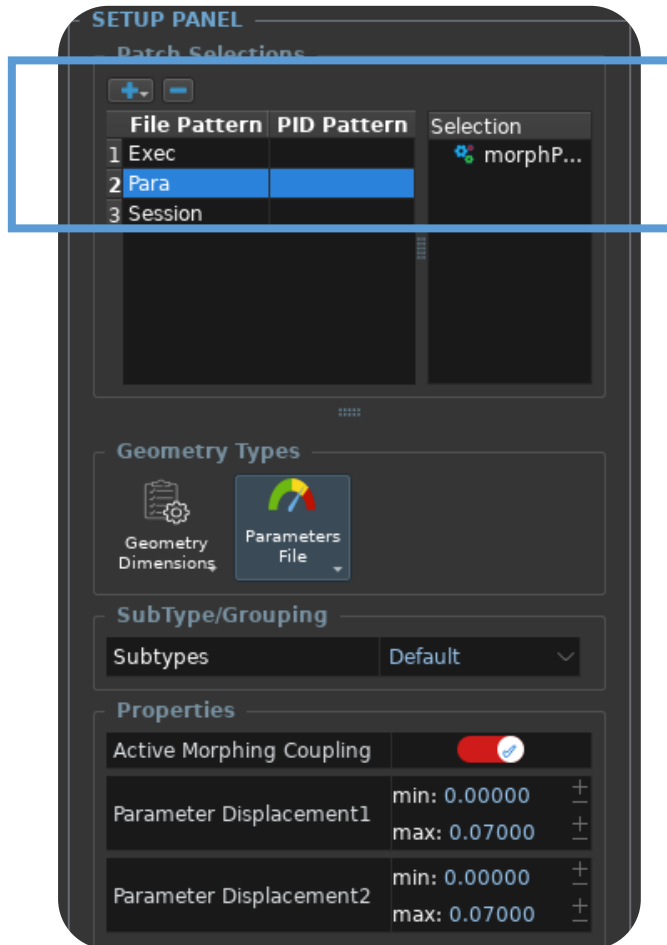






# DoE Setup

## Setup Tab: Morphing Variables



**Morphing session coupling**

- Morph session files must be added inside Input tree
- Set morph conditions at the Geometry node (**Property Files**)
  - Morph execution: JSON with the morpher executable properties
  - Morph session: templated JSON morph session (\*.json.ict)
  - Morph variables: JSON file with variable names and ranges
- Similar to the DoE setup entries, right-clicking on the morph variables will pop up the context menu with DoE type
  - ParameterDisplacement1: Float from 0 to 0.07
  - ParameterDisplacement2: Float from 0 to 0.07
- To avoid dependencies between setup inputs and morphing modifications, automatic variables are recommended
  - For example, area in aerodynamic monitors



# DoE Setup

## Setup Tab: Design Space Table

- At the [Design of Experiments](#) node, *Proposed Case Number* will be updated to 50
- Automatic homogeneous variable distribution will be shown on the table
  - No customization is required for this case
- Cases are ready to be created: [Export Setup Cases](#)

**SETUP PANEL**

**Properties**

|                        |         |   |
|------------------------|---------|---|
| Proposed Case Number   | 50      | + |
| Max Allowed Cases      | noLimit | ▼ |
| Case Indexes to Output | all     | ▼ |

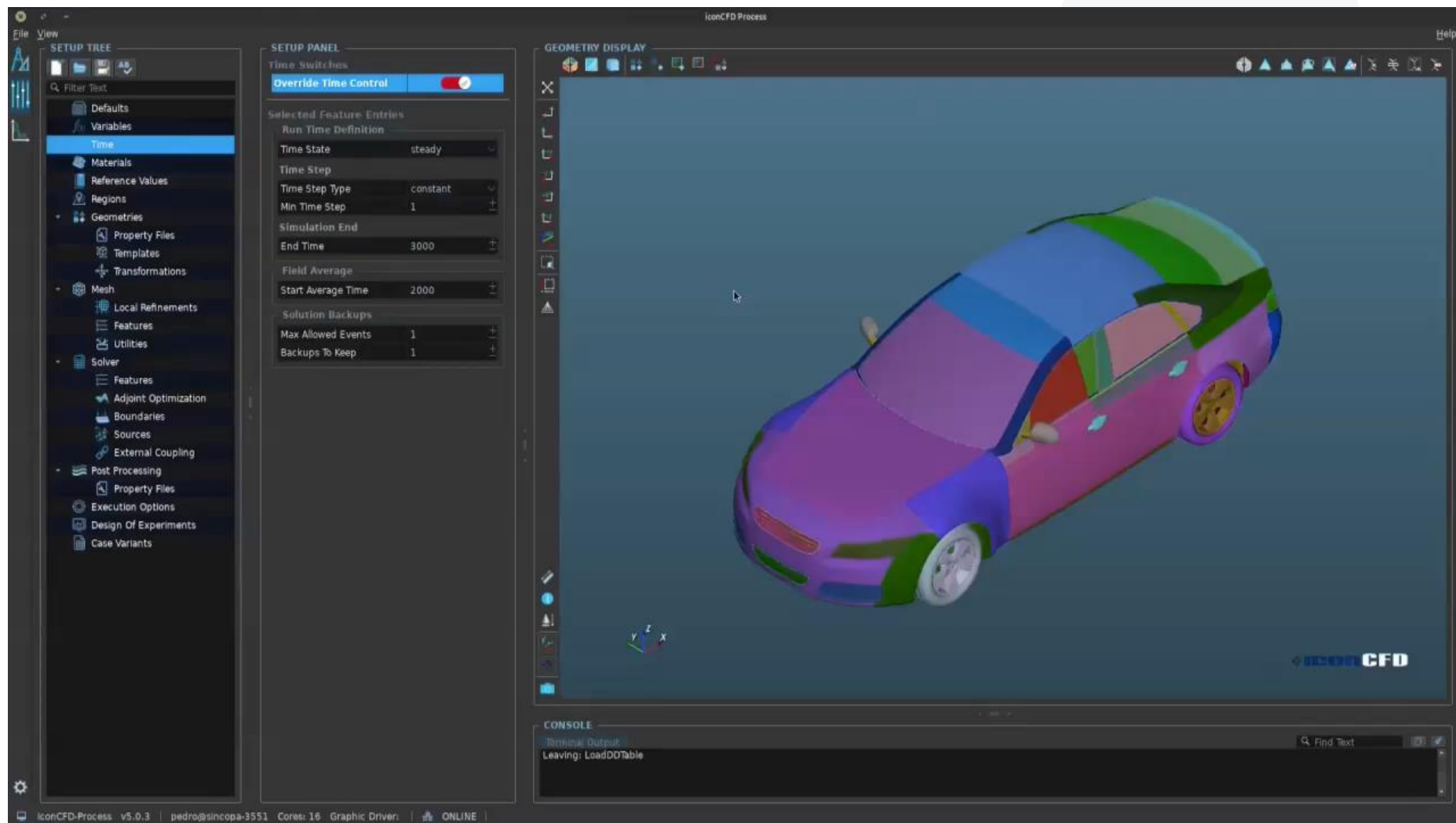
**Distribution**

|                 | 1                                  | 2                                  | 3                                    | 4                                   | 5 |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1 DOE_VARIAB... | parameterDisplacement1_GLOBAL_m... | parameterDisplacement2_GLOBAL_m... | turbulenceModel0_GLOBAL_region0 (... | CRIncrement_GLOBAL_meshSettings ... |   |
| 2 DOE_SETUP_1   | 0                                  | 0                                  | HKOSST                               | 0                                   |   |
| 3 DOE_SETUP_2   | 0                                  | 0                                  | HKOSST                               | 2                                   |   |
| 4 DOE_SETUP_3   | 0                                  | 0                                  | RKE                                  | 0                                   |   |
| 5 DOE_SETUP_4   | 0                                  | 0                                  | RKE                                  | 2                                   |   |
| 6 DOE_SETUP_5   | 0                                  | 0                                  | SA                                   | 0                                   |   |
| 7 DOE_SETUP_6   | 0                                  | 0                                  | SA                                   | 2                                   |   |
| 8 DOE_SETUP_7   | 0                                  | 0.07                               | HKOSST                               | 0                                   |   |
| 9 DOE_SETUP_8   | 0                                  | 0.07                               | HKOSST                               | 2                                   |   |
| 10 DOE_SETUP_9  | 0                                  | 0.07                               | RKE                                  | 0                                   |   |
| 11 DOE_SETUP_10 | 0                                  | 0.07                               | RKE                                  | 2                                   |   |
| 12 DOE_SETUP_11 | 0                                  | 0.07                               | SA                                   | 0                                   |   |
| 13 DOE_SETUP_12 | 0                                  | 0.07                               | SA                                   | 2                                   |   |

Design Space Table

# DoE Setup

## Demo Video



# DoE Setup

## More Advanced Features with DoE



Sweep geometry studies: car positioning, wheel steering and surface morphing boxes through DoE

- Complex workflows
  - Adjoint optimization
  - External coupling: FEM-CFD
  - Raining/wading/soiling studies
  - Thermal car brake cycles
- Ride heights with kinematic morphing
- Parametric Wheel Steering
- Drafting studies (Race conditions)
  - Overtake Optimizations
- Conjugate heat transfer simulations
- Variant studies with DoE per setup



# Concluding Remarks

- iconCFD Process V5 has been used to prepare a DoE simulation with:
  - CFD Setup variables: turbulence and global curvature refinement
  - Geometric morphing variables: parametric morphing boxes
- Base setup is straightforward to prepare with the help of:
  - Default/overrides definitions
  - Template Domains
  - Automatic features: like wheel rotation (center, axis, speed)
- Morphing session can be created/parametrized inside the GUI and be integrated inside the CFD setup without complexity
- 48 cases has been created as a simple DoE example using the *drivAer* sedan geometries
  - Extra complexity can be added easily: like ride height studies, component studies etc.





# Questions? More Information?



✦ **ICONCFD®**  
✦ **ICONPlatform**  
✦ **ICONConsulting**  
✦ **ICONDevelopment**  
✦ **ICONSupport**  
✦ **ICONTesting**  
✦ **ICONTraining**

Contact ICON:  
**[contact@iconCFD.com](mailto:contact@iconCFD.com)**





[www.iconcfd.com](http://www.iconcfd.com)

[contact@iconcfd.com](mailto:contact@iconcfd.com)



# Legal Notices and Disclaimer



This presentation is supplied in confidence, and commercial security on its contents must be maintained. It must not be used for any purpose other than for which it is supplied, nor may any information be disclosed to unauthorised persons. It must not be redistributed or reproduced in whole or in part without permission in writing from ICON.



Please consider the environment before printing this presentation. We recommend 'Greyscale' as printing color settings.