Why Compute?

Robert Rosner
The University of Chicago

Computational science is sometimes labeled the "third mode of science," complementing experiment and theory: To quote the Wikipedia, "The scientific computing approach is to gain understanding, mainly through the analysis of mathematical models implemented on computers." I will discuss a few example that illustrate a much more complex relationship between computer simulations and other ways of pursuing scientific problems, focusing on fluid dynamic problems that cross the boundaries between laboratory physics and astrophysics.