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Fluid model for the streamer-to-leader transition in lightning channels.

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One of the still not well understood phenomena involved in electric discharges is the streamer-to-leader transition. Here, as a first approach to investigate this transition, we present our recent steps modelling heating and gas expansion produced in streamer discharges, coupled to electromagnetic and air plasma chemistry. So far, we have applied this model to the mechanism of air heating and pressure perturbations present in sprite discharges, without losing sight of our final aim, i.e., to disentangle the streamer-to-leader transition in lightning channels.

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