



Centre Tecnològic de Transferència de Calor
UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA DE CATALUNYA



DNS and LES on unstructured grids

F.Xavier Trias¹, Xavier Álvarez-Farré¹, Àdel Alsalti-Baldellou¹,
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¹Heat and Mass Transfer Technological Center, Technical University of Catalonia

²Who cares?



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DNS and LES on unstructured grids: playing with matrices to preserve symmetries using a minimal set of algebraic kernels

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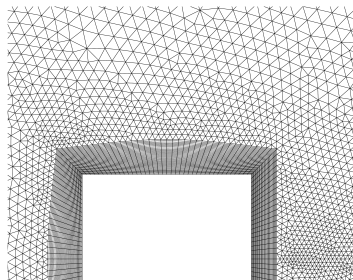
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- 4 Rethinking CFD
- 5 Conclusions

Motivation

Research question #1:

- Can we construct numerical discretizations of the Navier-Stokes equations suitable for **complex geometries**, such that the **symmetry properties** are exactly preserved?



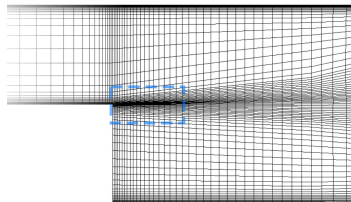
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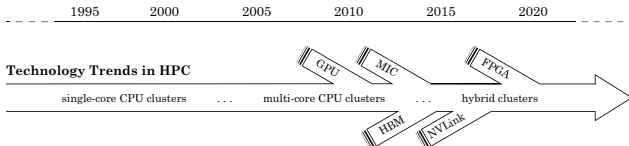
DNS² of backward-facing step at $Re_\tau = 395$ and expansion ratio 2

²A.Pont-Vílchez, F.X.Trias, A.Gorobets, A.Oliva. *DNS of Backward-Facing Step flow at $Re_\tau = 395$ and expansion ratio 2*. **Journal of Fluid Mechanics**, 863:341-363, 2019.

Motivation

Research question #2:

- How can we develop **portable** and **efficient** CFD codes for large-scale simulations on modern supercomputers?



³X.Álvarez, A.Gorobets, F.X.Trias. *A hierarchical parallel implementation for heterogeneous computing. Application to algebra-based CFD simulations on hybrid supercomputers.* **Computers & Fluids**, 214:104768, 2021.

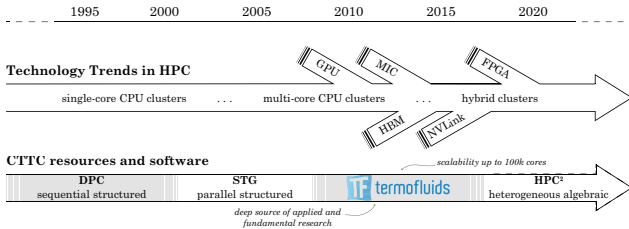
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HPC²: portable, algebra-based framework for heterogeneous computing is being developed³. Traditional stencil-based data and sweeps are replaced by algebraic structures (sparse matrices and vectors) and kernels. SpMM-based strategies to increase the arithmetic intensity are presented in this conference^{4,5}.

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Motivation

Frequently used general purpose CFD codes:

- STAR-CCM+



SIEMENS



- ANSYS-FLUENT



- Code-Saturne



- OpenFOAM



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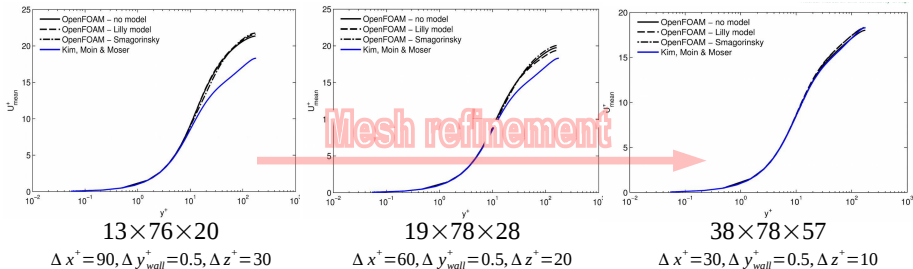


Main common characteristics of LES in such codes:

- **Unstructured finite volume** method, **collocated** grid
- Second-order spatial and temporal discretisation
- Eddy-viscosity type LES models

Motivation

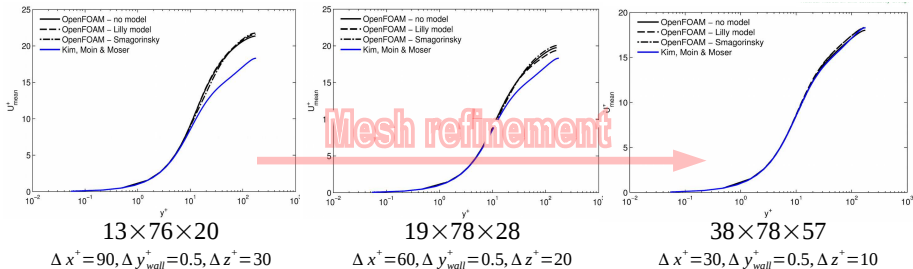
OpenFOAM® LES⁶ results of a turbulent channel for at $Re_T = 180$



⁶E.M.J.Komen, L.H.Camilo, A.Shams, B.J.Geurts, B.Koren. *A quantification method for numerical dissipation in quasi-DNS and under-resolved DNS, and effects of numerical dissipation in quasi-DNS and under-resolved DNS of turbulent channel flows*, **Journal of Computational Physics**, 345, 565-595, 2017.

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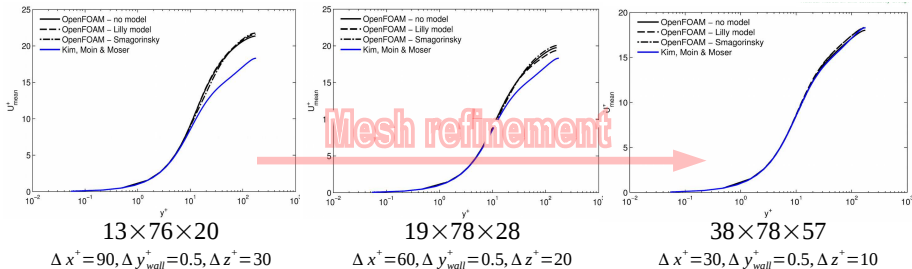


- Are LES results are merit of the SGS model?

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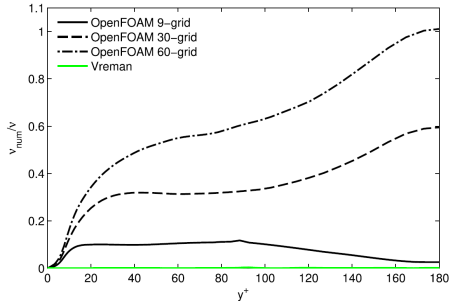
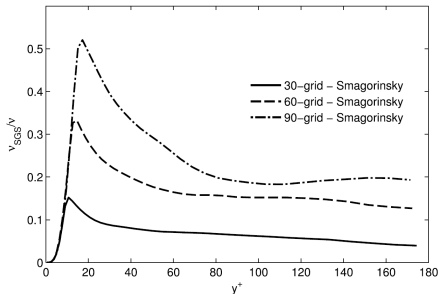


- Are LES results are merit of the SGS model? Apparently **NOT!!!** ❌

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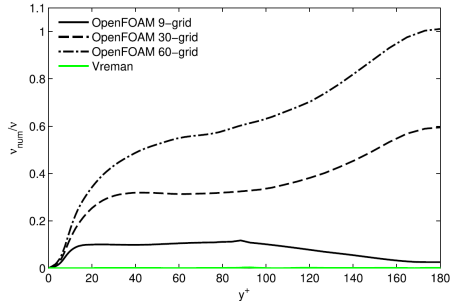
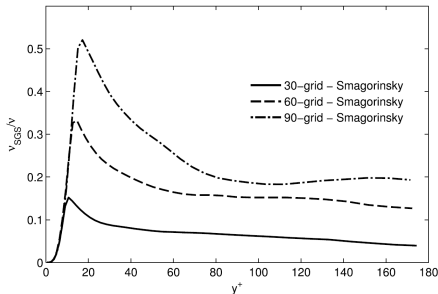


$$\nu_{num} \neq 0$$

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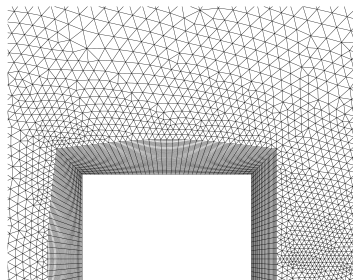
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Symmetry-preserving discretization

Continuous

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{u}) = \nu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u} - \nabla p$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$$

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Discrete

$$\Omega \frac{d\mathbf{u}_h}{dt} + \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{u}_h) \mathbf{u}_h = \mathbf{D} \mathbf{u}_h - \mathbf{G} \mathbf{p}_h$$

$$\mathbf{M} \mathbf{u}_h = \mathbf{0}_h$$

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$$\mathbf{D} = \mathbf{D}^T \quad \text{def -}$$

Why collocated arrangements are so popular?

- STAR-CCM+



SIEMENS



- ANSYS-FLUENT



- Code-Saturne



- OpenFOAM

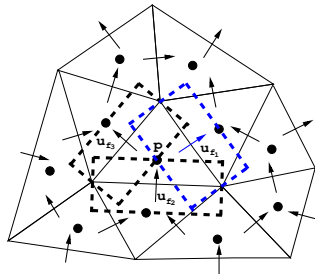
OpenFOAM®



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In staggered meshes

- p - \mathbf{u}_s coupling is naturally solved ✓
- $\mathbf{C}(\mathbf{u}_s)$ and \mathbf{D} difficult to discretize ✗



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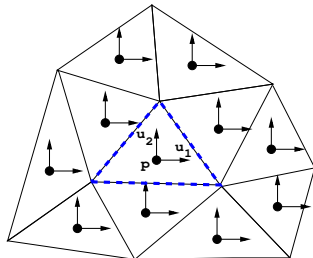
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In collocated meshes

- p - \mathbf{u}_c coupling is cumbersome **X**
- $\mathbf{C}(\mathbf{u}_s)$ and \mathbf{D} easy to discretize **✓**
- Cheaper, less memory, ... **✓**



Why collocated arrangements are so popular?

Everything is easy except the pressure-velocity coupling...

- STAR-CCM+



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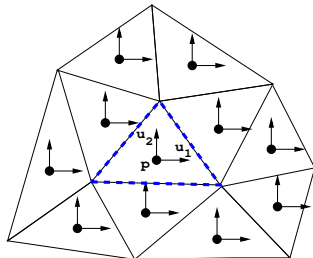
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Pressure-velocity coupling on collocated grids

A vicious circle that cannot be broken...

In summary⁸:

- Mass: $M\Gamma_{c \rightarrow s} \mathbf{u}_c = M\Gamma_{c \rightarrow s} \mathbf{u}_c - L_c L^{-1} M\Gamma_{c \rightarrow s} \mathbf{u}_c \approx \mathbf{0}_c \quad \mathbf{X}$
- Energy: $\mathbf{p}_c (L - L_c) \mathbf{p}_c \neq 0 \quad \mathbf{X}$

⁸F.X.Trias, O.Lehmkuhl, A.Oliva, C.D.Pérez-Segarra, R.W.C.P.Verstappen.
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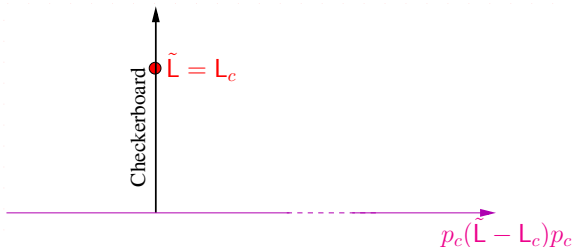
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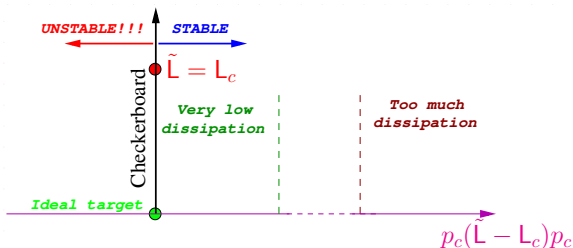
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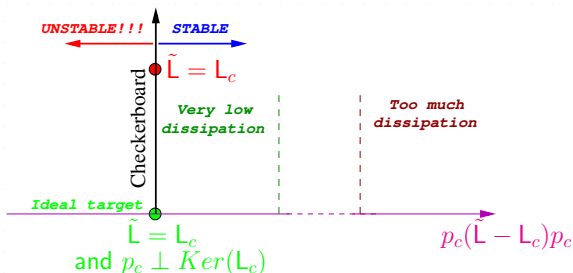
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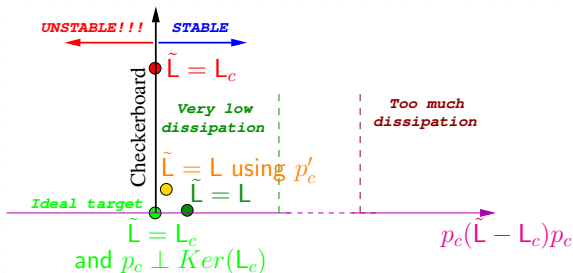
⁸Shashank, J.Larsson, G.laccarino. A co-located incompressible Navier-Stokes solver with exact mass, momentum and kinetic energy conservation in the inviscid limit, *Journal of Computational Physics*, 229: 4425-4430,2010.

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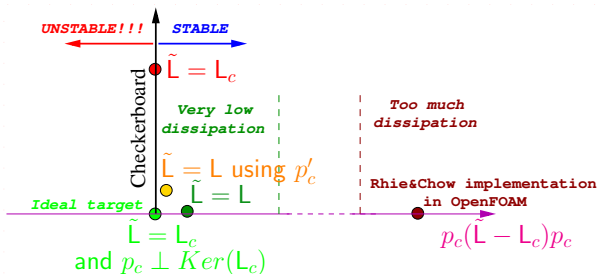
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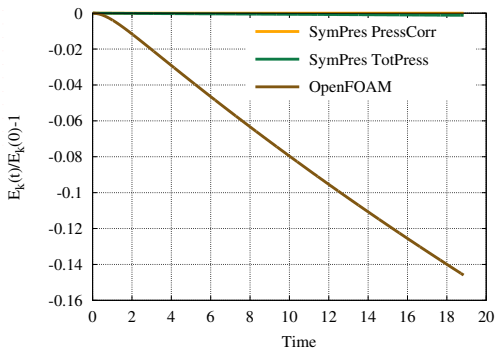
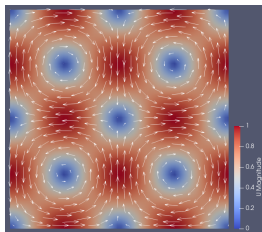
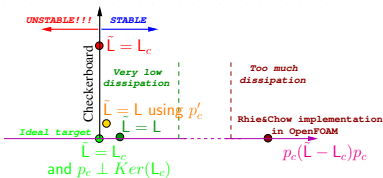
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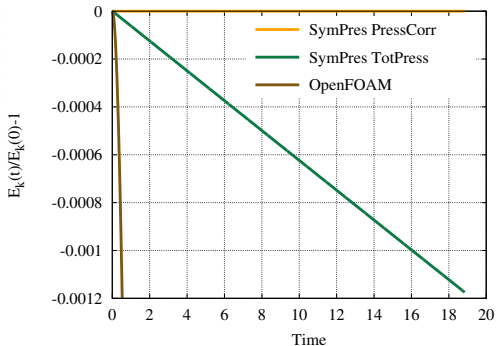
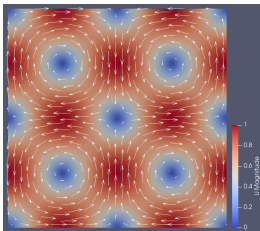
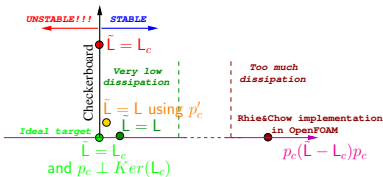


Results for an inviscid Taylor-Green vortex⁹

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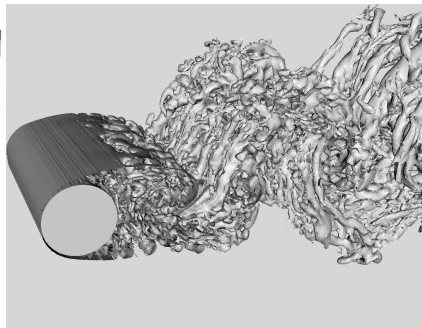
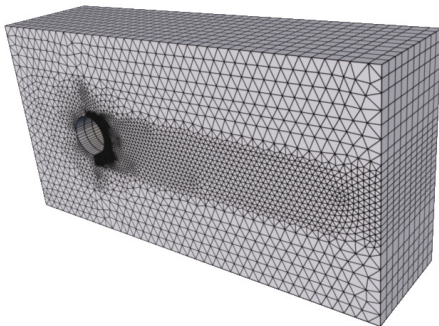
Results for an inviscid Taylor-Green vortex⁹

⁹E.Komen, J.A.Hopman, E.M.A.Frederix, F.X.Trias, R.W.C.P.Verstappen. "A symmetry-preserving second-order time-accurate PISO-based method". **Computers & Fluids**, 225:104979, 2021.

Pressure-velocity coupling on collocated grids

Examples of simulations

Despite these inherent limitations, symmetry-preserving collocated formulation has been successfully used for DNS/LES simulations¹⁰:

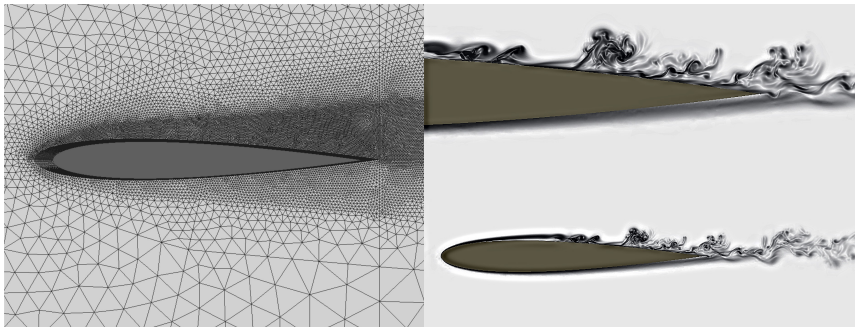


¹⁰R.Borrell, O.Lehmkuhl, F.X.Trias, A.Oliva. *Parallel Direct Poisson solver for discretizations with one Fourier diagonalizable direction*. **Journal of Computational Physics**, 230:4723-4741, 2011.

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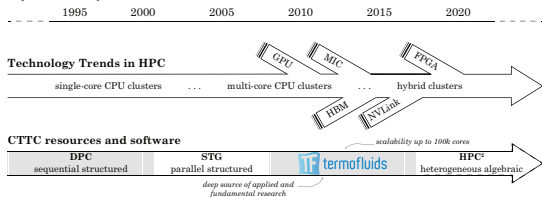


¹⁰F.X.Trias and O.Lehmkuhl. *A self-adaptive strategy for the time-integration of Navier-Stokes equations*. **Numerical Heat Transfer, part B**, 60(2):116-134, 2011.

Algebra-based approach naturally leads to portability

Research question #2:

- How can we develop **portable** and **efficient** CFD codes for large-scale simulations on modern supercomputers?



HPC²: portable, algebra-based framework for heterogeneous computing is being developed. Traditional stencil-based data and sweeps are replaced by algebraic structures (sparse matrices and vectors) and kernels. SpMM-based strategies to increase the arithmetic intensity are/were presented in this conference^{11,12}.

¹¹ À. Alsalti-Baldellou, X. Álvarez-Farré, A. Gorobets, F.X. Trias. *Strategies to increase the arithmetic intensity of the linear solvers*. On Thursday at 16:30 in Lounge A2

¹² X. Álvarez-Farré, À. Alsalti-Baldellou, G. Colomer, A. Gorobets, A. Oliva, F.X. Trias. *Development of a low-level, algebra-based library to provide platform portability on hybrid supercomputers*. On Thursday at 11am in Lounge A2

Algebra-based approach naturally leads to portability, to simple and analyzable formulations

Continuous

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{u}) = \nu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u} - \nabla p$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$$

$$\langle \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \rangle = \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{a} \mathbf{b} d\Omega$$

$$\langle \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{u}, \varphi_1), \varphi_2 \rangle = - \langle \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{u}, \varphi_2), \varphi_1 \rangle$$

$$\langle \nabla \cdot \mathbf{a}, \varphi \rangle = - \langle \mathbf{a}, \nabla \varphi \rangle$$

$$\langle \nabla^2 \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{a}, \nabla^2 \mathbf{b} \rangle$$

Discrete

$$\Omega \frac{d\mathbf{u}_h}{dt} + \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{u}_h) \mathbf{u}_h = \mathbf{D} \mathbf{u}_h - \mathbf{G} \mathbf{p}_h$$

$$\mathbf{M} \mathbf{u}_h = \mathbf{0}_h$$

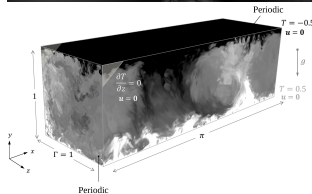
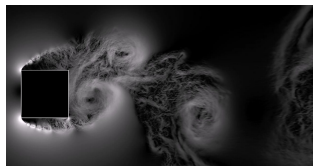
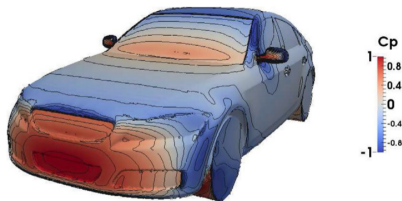
$$\langle \mathbf{a}_h, \mathbf{b}_h \rangle_h = \mathbf{a}_h^T \Omega \mathbf{b}_h$$

$$\mathbf{C}(\mathbf{u}_h) = -\mathbf{C}^T(\mathbf{u}_h)$$

$$\Omega \mathbf{G} = -\mathbf{M}^T$$

$$\mathbf{D} = \mathbf{D}^T \quad \text{def -}$$

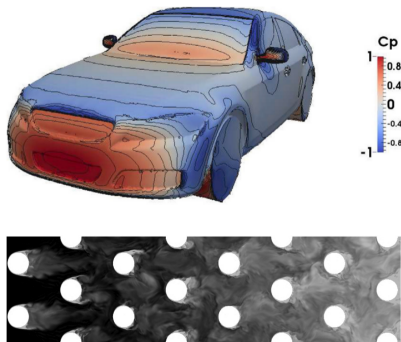
Algebra-based approach naturally leads to portability, to simple and analyzable formulations and opens the door to new strategies^{13,14} to improve its performance...



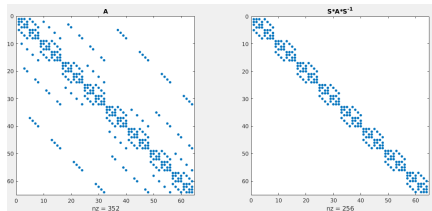
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$$\hat{\mathbf{L}} = \mathbf{S}\mathbf{L}\mathbf{S}^{-1} = \mathbf{I} \otimes \mathbf{L}_{inn} + \text{diag}(\mathbf{d})$$



SpMM can be used \implies **higher AI**

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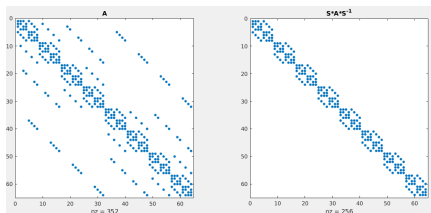
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Benefits for Poisson solver are 3-fold:

- Higher arithmetic intensity (AI)
- Reduction of memory footprint
- Reduction in the number of iterations

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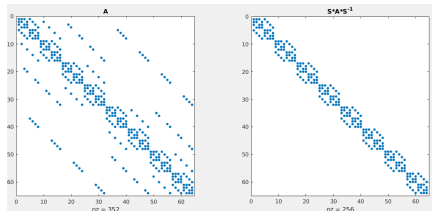
Benefits for Poisson solver are 3-fold:

- Higher arithmetic intensity (AI)
- Reduction of memory footprint
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→ Overall speed-up up to **x2-x3** ✓

→ Memory reduction of ≈ 2 ✓

$$\hat{L} = SLS^{-1} = I \otimes L_{inn} + \text{diag}(\mathbf{d})$$



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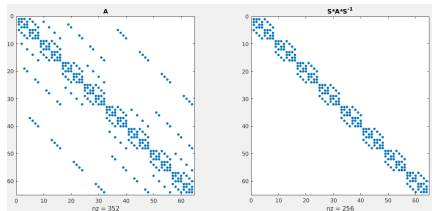
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Algebra-based approach naturally leads to portability, to simple and analyzable formulations and opens the door to new strategies^{13,14} to improve its performance...

Other SpMM-based strategies to **increase AI** and **reduce memory footprint**:

- Multiple transport equations
- Parametric studies
- Parallel-in-time simulations
- Go to higher-order?

$$\hat{\mathbf{L}} = \mathbf{S}\mathbf{L}\mathbf{S}^{-1} = \mathbf{I} \otimes \mathbf{L}_{inn} + \text{diag}(\mathbf{d})$$



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Rethinking standard CFD operations

In summary...

Leitmotiv: relying on a **minimal set of (algebraic) kernels** is crucial for code **portability** and **maintenance!!!**

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- Computational challenge: SpMV has a low AI
 - Solution: make use of SpMM whenever possible (multiple transport equations, spatial symmetries, parallel-in-time simulations, parametric studies,...) to increase AI and, therefore, performance.
 - Positive side-effects: reduction of memory footprint (crucial for GPUs), improvement of the convergence for the Poisson solver...

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 - Positive side-effects: reduction of memory footprint (crucial for GPUs), improvement of the convergence for the Poisson solver...
- Implementation challenge: there still exists a list of standard CFD methods that do not seem to fit well on an algebraic framework (e.g. flux limiters¹⁵, boundary conditions, CFL condition,...).
 - Dilemma: "add more and more specific kernels" vs "rethink them"

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Rethinking standard CFD operations

CFL-like condition

Step #1: forget about classical formulae from textbooks...

~~$$\Delta t \leq C_{conv} \left(\frac{\Delta x}{U} \right)_{\min}$$~~

and

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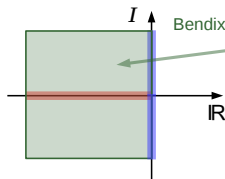
...and replace it by an eigenbouding problem of $\mathbf{C}(\mathbf{u}_s)$ and \mathbf{D} matrices

$$\Omega_s \frac{d\mathbf{u}_s}{dt} + \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{u}_s) \mathbf{u}_s = \mathbf{D} \mathbf{u}_s - \mathbf{G} \mathbf{p}_c; \quad \mathbf{M} \mathbf{u}_s = \mathbf{0}_c$$

$$\mathbf{C}(\mathbf{u}_s) \mathbf{v} = \lambda \mathbf{v}$$

$$\mathbf{D} \mathbf{v} = \lambda \mathbf{v}$$

$$(-\mathbf{C}(\mathbf{u}_s) + \mathbf{D}) \mathbf{v} = \lambda \mathbf{v}$$



Bendixson (1900)

SUR LES RACINES D'UNE ÉQUATION FONDAMENTALE:

PAR
IVAR BENDIXSON
À STOCKHOLM.

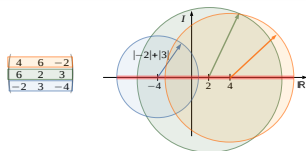
Dans diverses recherches d'analyse on est conduit à l'étude de l'équation suivante:

$$\left[\sigma_1 - \varepsilon, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_n \right]$$

Rethinking standard CFD operations

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Step #2: compute eigenbounds of $C(u_s)$ and D in an inexpensive way¹⁶



$$\rho(D) \leq \rho^{\text{Gersh}}(D)$$

$$\rho(C) \leq \rho^{\text{Gersh}}(C)$$

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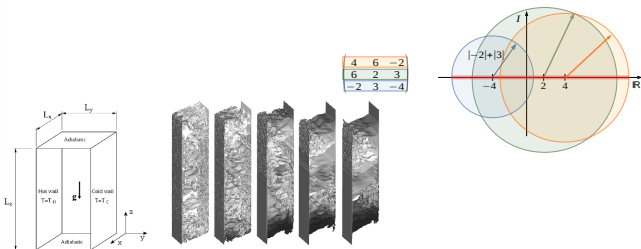


Table 1. Tests for the air-filled ($Pr=0.71$) differentially heated cavity at Rayleigh number $Ra=3 \times 10^{10}$ and height aspect ratio 4; averaged results correspond to the statistically steady state

	N_x	N_y	N_z	$\phi/(\pi/2)$	$\overline{\delta t}_{\text{CFL+AB2}}$	$\overline{\delta t}_{\text{EigenCD+k1L2}}$	$\overline{\delta t}_{\text{EigenCD+k1L2}}/\overline{\delta t}_{\text{CFL+AB2}}$
MeshA	128	338	778	0.072	1.04×10^{-4}	3.02×10^{-4}	2.90
MeshB	64	168	338	0.158	4.31×10^{-4}	1.21×10^{-3}	2.80
MeshC	32	84	168	0.252	1.80×10^{-3}	4.69×10^{-3}	2.59
MeshD	32	56	112	0.408	4.21×10^{-3}	8.75×10^{-3}	2.08
MeshE	16	42	84	0.504	6.88×10^{-3}	1.35×10^{-3}	1.96

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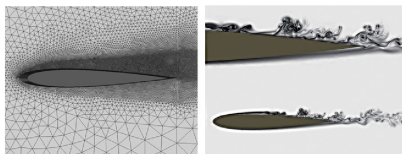
Rethinking standard CFD operations

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Step #2: compute eigenbounds of $\mathbf{C}(\mathbf{u}_s)$ and \mathbf{D} in an inexpensive way¹⁶

$$\rho(\mathbf{D}) \leq \rho^{\text{Gersh}}(\mathbf{D})$$

$$\rho(\mathbf{C}) \leq \rho^{\text{Gersh}}(\mathbf{C})$$



4	6	-2
6	2	3
-2	3	-4

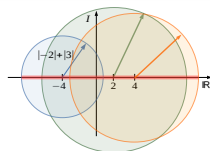


Table 2. Tests for the flow around a NACA 0012 airfoil at Reynolds number 5×10^4 and an angle of attack of 5° ; averaged results correspond to the statistically steady state

	N_x	Mesh2D	$\varphi/(\pi/2)$	$\bar{\delta}_t^{\text{CFL+AB2}}$	$\bar{\delta}_t^{\text{EigenCD}+\kappa\text{IL2}}$	$\bar{\delta}_t^{\text{EigenCD}+\kappa\text{IL2}}/\bar{\delta}_t^{\text{CFL+AB2}}$
UMeshA	64	$\approx 2.65 \times 10^5$	0.593	4.69×10^{-5}	1.30×10^{-4}	2.77
UMeshB	32	$\approx 4.69 \times 10^4$	0.956	1.61×10^{-4}	6.86×10^{-4}	4.27

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Rethinking standard CFD operations

CFL-like condition

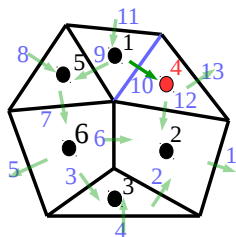
Step #3:

reformulate the problem in a way that we avoid constructing $C(\mathbf{u}_s)$ and D

$$C(\mathbf{u}_s) \equiv -1/2 T_{CS}^T A_s U_s |T_{CS}| \quad D \equiv -T_{CS}^T A_s \Lambda_s \Delta_s^{-1} T_{CS}$$

$$T_{sc} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{matrix} 10 \\ 12 \\ 13 \end{matrix}$$

face-to-cell oriented incidence matrix



Rethinking standard CFD operations

CFL-like condition

Step #3 ... #4 (some maths that would take too long to explain):
reformulate the problem in a way that we avoid constructing $\mathbf{C}(\mathbf{u}_s)$ and \mathbf{D}

$$\mathbf{C}(\mathbf{u}_s) \equiv -1/2 \mathbf{T}_{cs}^T \mathbf{A}_s \mathbf{U}_s |T_{cs}| \quad \mathbf{D} \equiv -\mathbf{T}_{cs}^T \mathbf{A}_s \Lambda_s \Delta_s^{-1} T_{cs}$$

$$\rho(\mathbf{D}) \leq \rho^{\text{Gersh}}(\mathbf{D})$$

$$\rho(\mathbf{C}) \leq \rho^{\text{Gersh}}(\mathbf{C})$$

where T_{cs} is the face-to-cell oriented incidence matrix; $\tilde{\Delta}_s \equiv \mathbf{A}_s \Lambda_s \Delta_s^{-1}$ (diffusivity-like fluxes) and $\tilde{F}_s \equiv \mathbf{A}_s \mathbf{U}_s$ (mass fluxes) are diagonal matrices.

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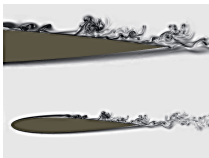
$$\rho(\mathbf{D}) \leq \dots \leq \rho^{\text{Gersh}}(\mathbf{T}_{cs} \mathbf{T}_{cs}^T \tilde{\Delta}_s) = \max_{\text{SpMV}} \left(\overbrace{|\mathbf{T}_{cs} \mathbf{T}_{cs}^T| \text{diag}(\tilde{\Delta}_s)}^{\text{Constant matrix}} \right)$$

$$\rho(\mathbf{C}) \leq \dots \leq \rho^{\text{Gersh}}(\mathbf{T}_{cs} \mathbf{T}_{cs}^T \tilde{\mathbf{F}}_s) = \max_{\text{SpMV}} \left(\overbrace{|\mathbf{T}_{cs} \mathbf{T}_{cs}^T| \text{diag}(\tilde{\mathbf{F}}_s)}^{\text{Constant matrix}} \right)$$

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Concluding remarks

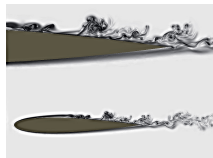
- **Preserving symmetries** either using staggered or collocated formulations is the key point for **reliable LES/DNS** simulations.



¹⁷ N.Valle, X.Álvarez, A.Gorobets, J.Castro, A.Oliva, F.X.Trias. *On the implementation of flux limiters in algebraic frameworks*. **Computer Physics Communications**, 271:108230, 2022.

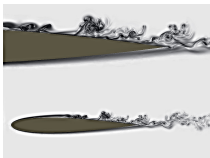
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- **Preserving symmetries** either using staggered or collocated formulations is the key point for **reliable LES/DNS** simulations.
- Algebra-based approach naturally leads to **portability**, to simple and **analyzable** formulations and opens the door to **new strategies to improve its performance**.



Concluding remarks

- **Preserving symmetries** either using staggered or collocated formulations is the key point for **reliable LES/DNS** simulations.
- Algebra-based approach naturally leads to **portability**, to simple and **analyzable** formulations and opens the door to **new strategies to improve its performance**.



On-going research:

- **Rethinking** standard CFD operations (e.g. flux limiters¹⁷, boundary conditions, **CFL**,...) to adapt them into an algebraic framework (Motivation: maintaining a minimal number of basic kernels is crucial for portability!!!)

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Thank you for your attendance