

# **EPICURE HPC in ARM Architecture Hackathon**

Assessing the Performance and Scalability of ARM  
Processors for Industrial Applications

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**INESC TEC / PIEP**

# Agenda

- Introduction
  - What is CFD?
  - What is OpenFOAM?
  - History of our studies in Deucalion
- Challenges of OpenFOAM in ARM architecture
  - The OpenFOAM matrix format
  - Is it possible to use vectorization in OpenFOAM?
  - Memory requirement
- Evaluation of OpenFOAM performance in ARM processors
  - Tests descriptions and motivations
  - Speed-up and efficiency results
  - Energy efficiency
- Future work - Ideas of how to improve the OpenFOAM performance in ARM architectures
- Take home messages



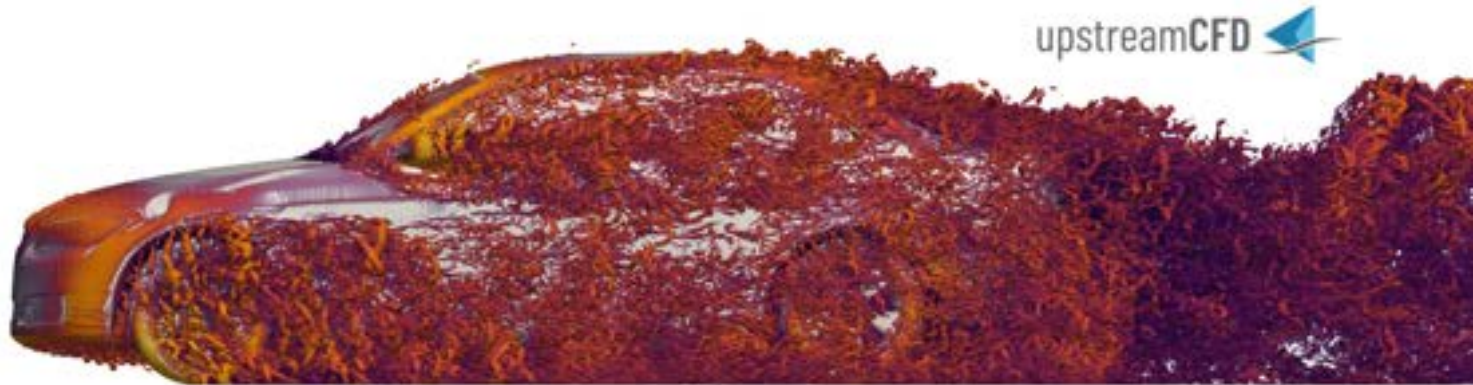
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# What is CFD?

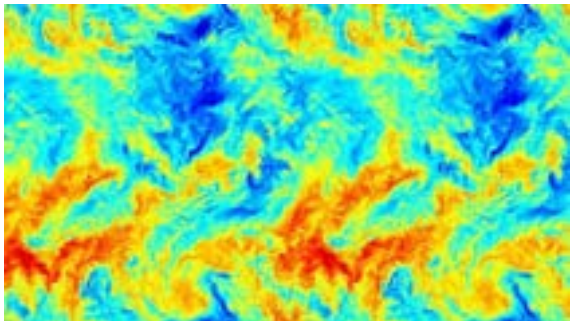
- **Computational fluid dynamics (CFD)** is the science of using computers to **predict fluid flows** based on the **governing equations**, which are most often the conservation of mass, momentum, and energy.
- CFD allows for the analysis of **various aspects of fluid flow**, such as temperature, pressure, velocity, and density, and can be applied to a **wide range of engineering problems** across industries.



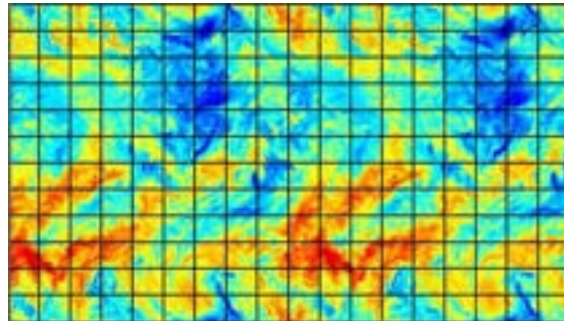
# How CFD works

\*Grid based Methods

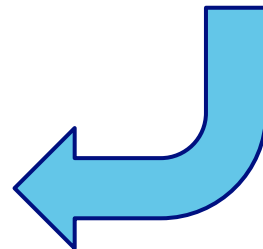
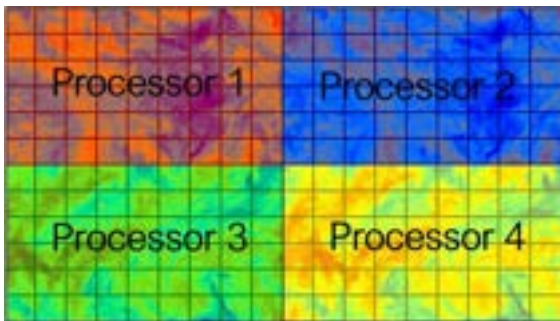
Identify the fluid flow domain to be solved



Discretize the domain into the desired mesh size or grid spacing\*



Assign processors to different regions and solve the associated algebraic system of equations



# How to use HPC in CFD

- Select one of the available CFD codes

## Commercial



## Open-source



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# What is OpenFOAM?

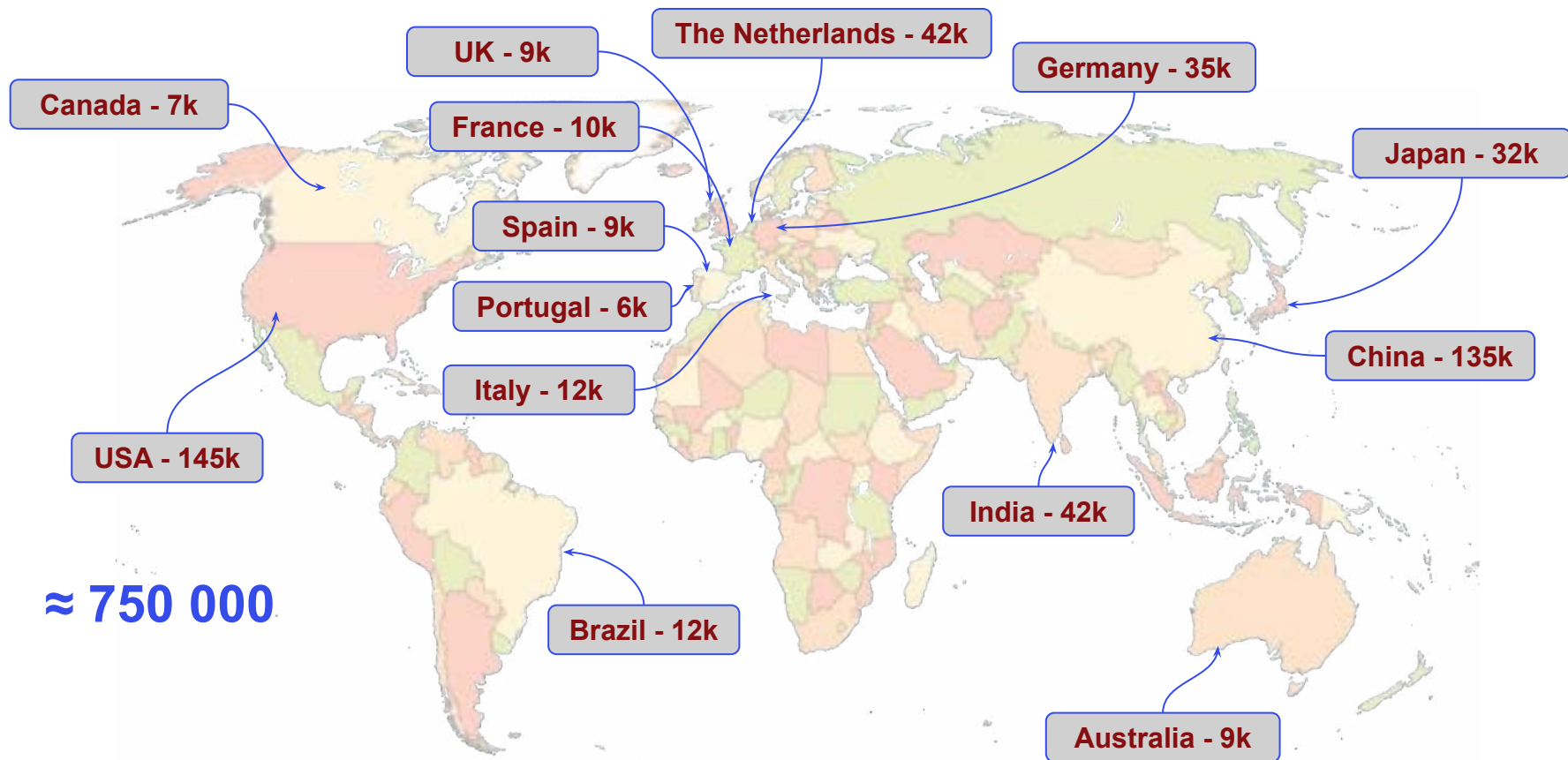
- **Open-Source Field Operation And Manipulation**
- Completely **free** (possibility to implement new features)
- Uses C++ language
- Wide range of applications
- Native tools for pre and post processing
- Large and worldwide **active community**
- Works under **GPL 3 licence**
- **Tested, validated** and **evaluated** (performance) in different fields to simulate complex problems
- No limitation in HPC (no limitation on the number of cores)

Is there a World Record?





# Downloads during 2023 of the three major forks



# Use in industries

## Automobilistic



## Polymers



**Logoplaste**

## Other Industries



**SIEMENS**  
energy

**TMG**  
GROUP

## Formula 1 Teams



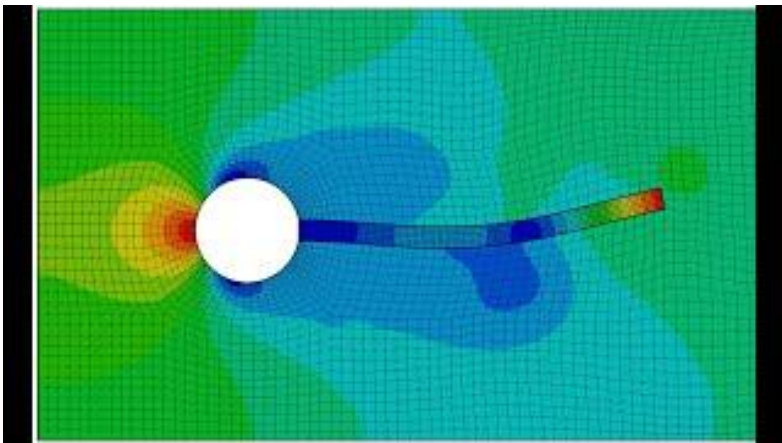
**AMG**  
PETRONAS  
FORMULA ONE TEAM



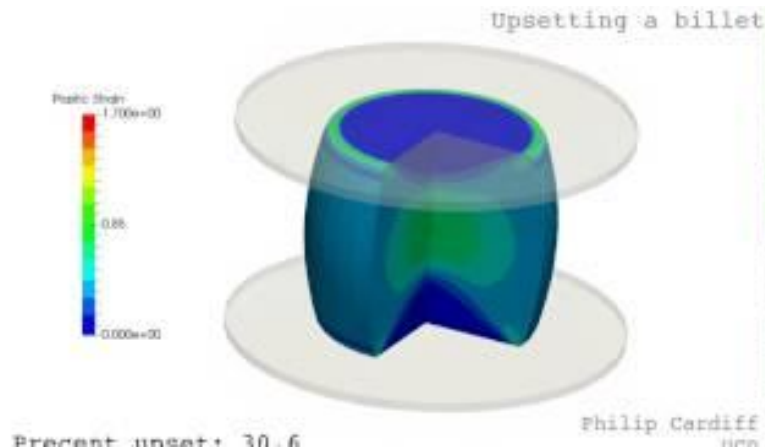
**Sauber F1 Team**

# Applications

## Solid Mechanics



- Fluid-solid interaction between an elastic object and laminar incompressible flow

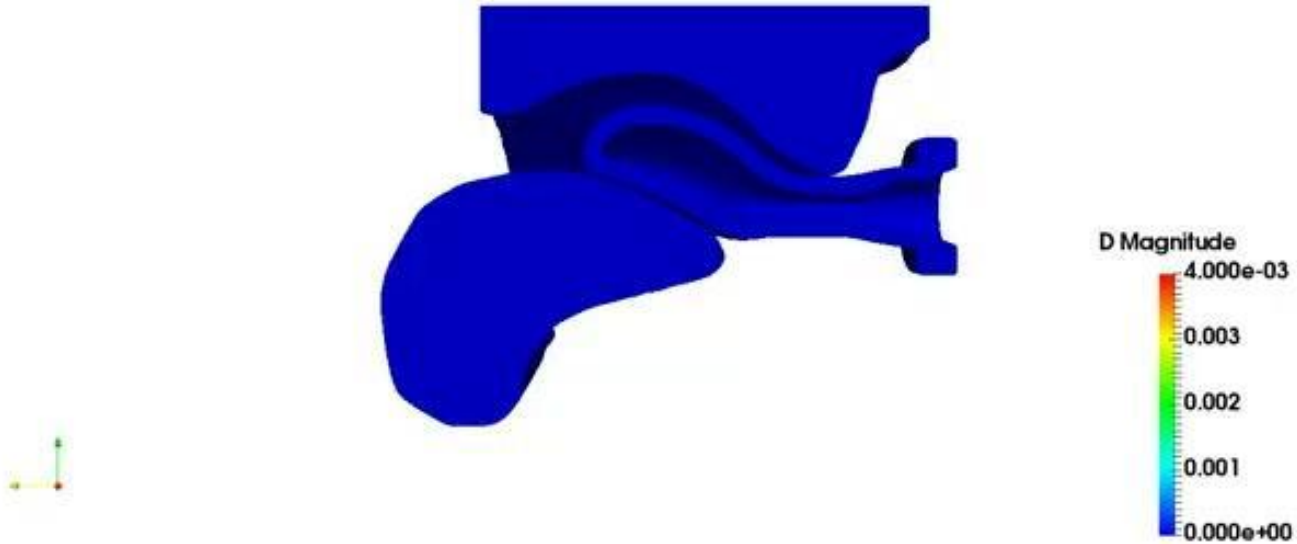


- Upsetting a billet



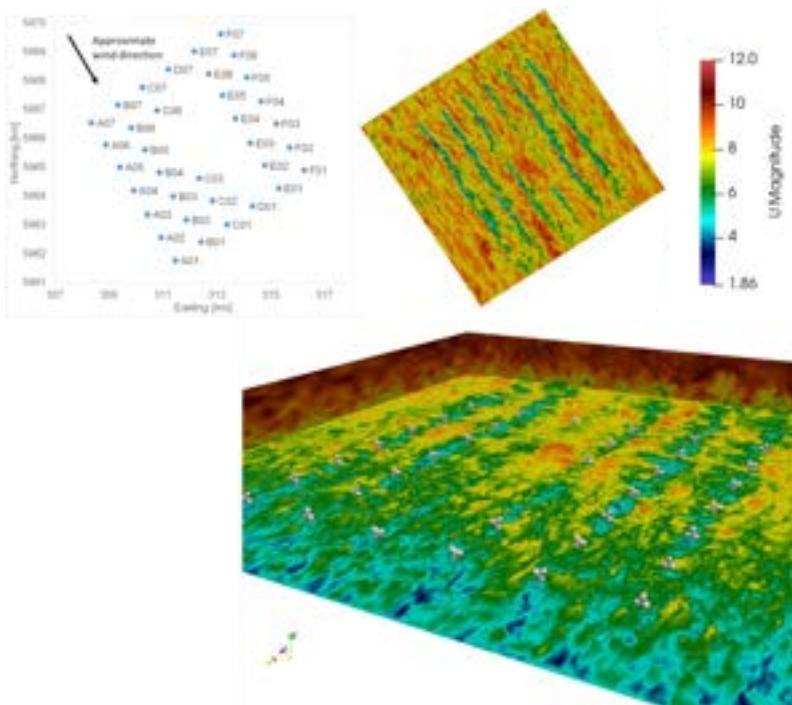
# Applications

## Solid Mechanics (Pacifiers Assessment)

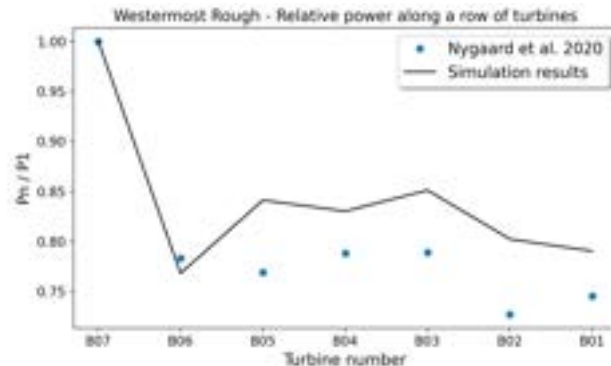


# Applications

## Offshore Wind Park



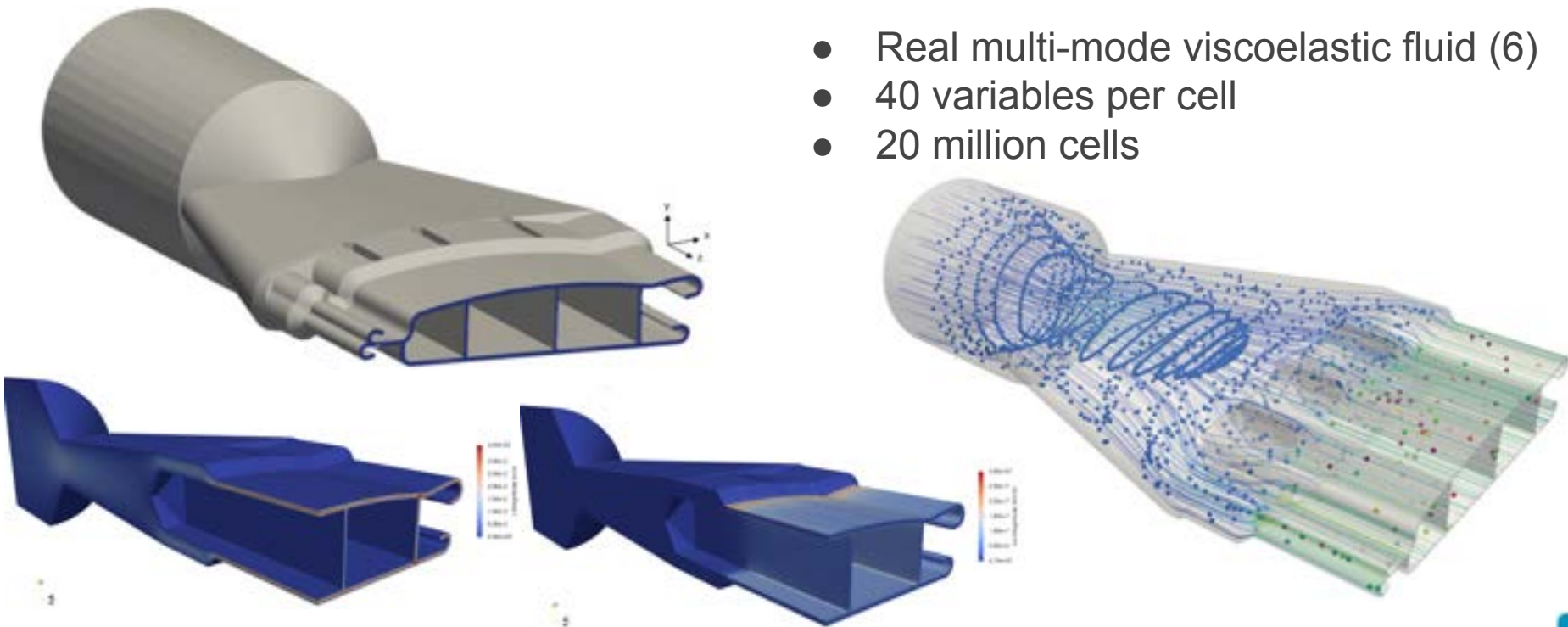
- 35 Siemens 6 MW turbines with 154 m rotor diameter
- 13 million cells
- LES turbulence model



# Applications

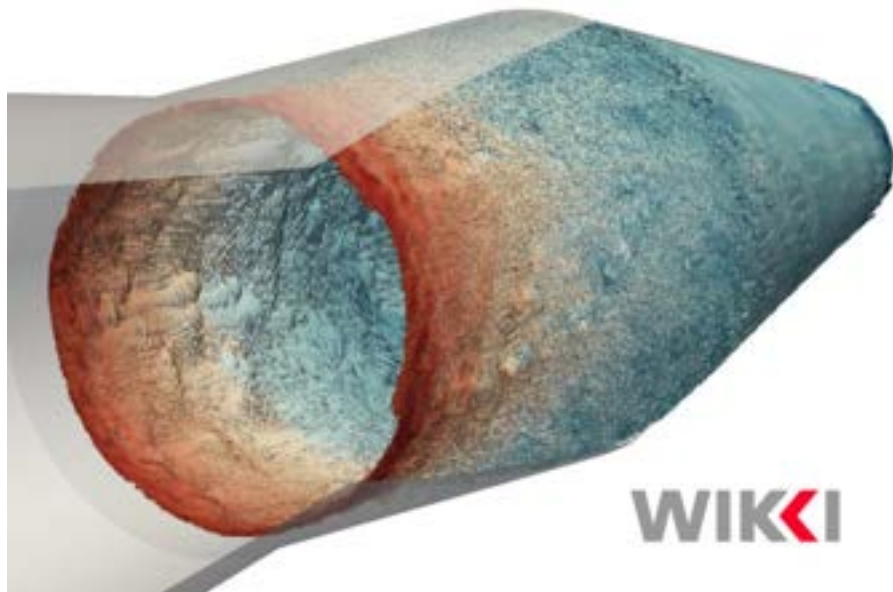
## Viscoelastic Complex Profile Extrusion

- Real multi-mode viscoelastic fluid (6)
- 40 variables per cell
- 20 million cells

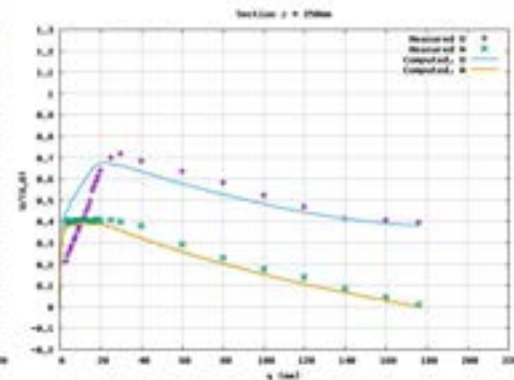
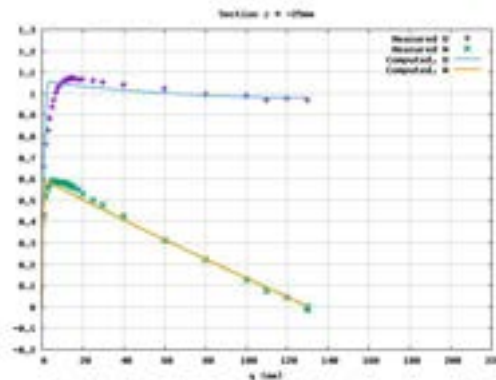


# Applications

## ERCOFTAC Conical Diffuser



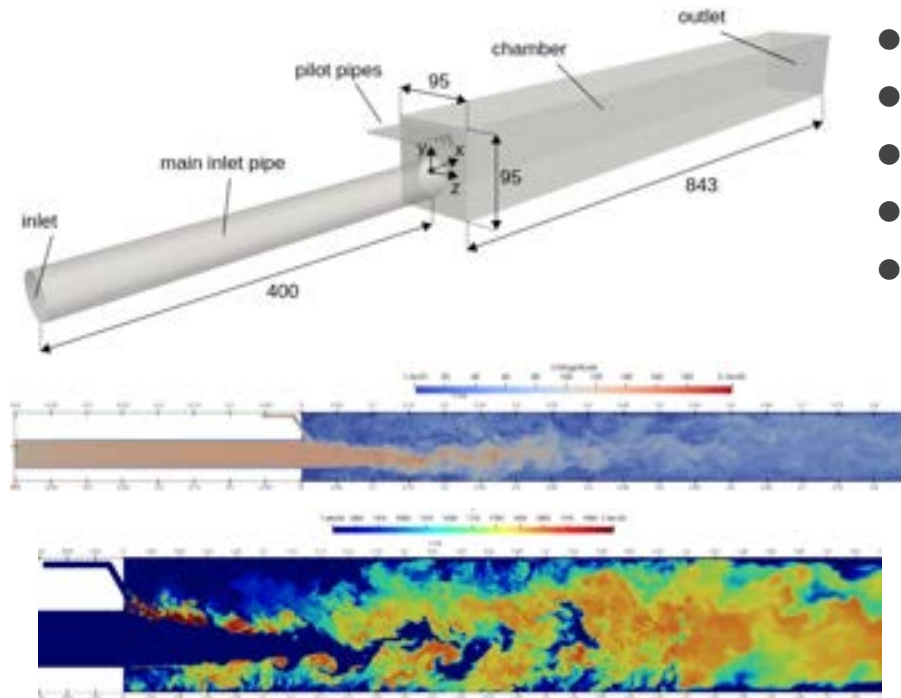
- Turbulence (LES and RANS Model)
- Two configurations:
  - 3M cells run on 28 cores, 1 node;
  - 145M cells run on 2880 cores, 30 nodes.



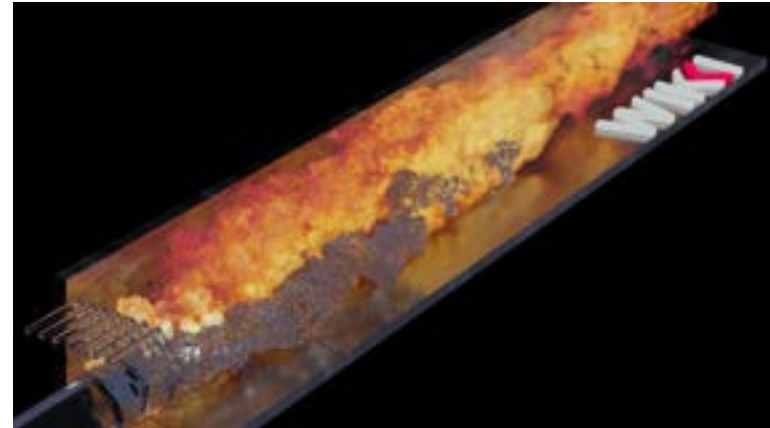


# Applications

## DLR Confined Jet High Pressure Combustor



- Application to the gas turbines
- Combustion: fuel mixture is inhomogeneous
- Turbulence model: LES + van Driest
- 489M cells
- 4096 cores, 32 nodes





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# History of our studies in Deucalion

- Move to Portugal in 2023 beginning to work with Miguel Nóbrega in University of Minho

## Miguel Nóbrega (UMinho)



- One of the most recognized names both in Portugal and worldwide
- One of the founders and editors of [OpenFOAM Journal](#)
- Big enthusiast of OpenFOAM and HPC
- Coordinator of one Work package in the [exaFOAM project](#)



# History of our studies in Deucalion

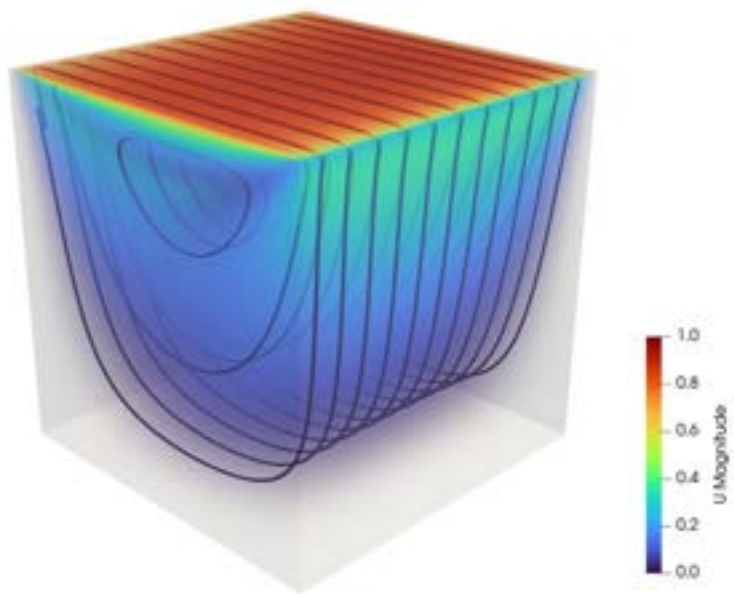
## The exaFOAM project

- Aimed at overcoming the current limitations of CFD technology, especially in what concerns the exploitation of massively parallel HPC architectures.
- 13 industrial stakeholders and 5 industrial supporters.
- Development and validation of a range of algorithmic improvements, across the entire CFD process chain.
- Elaboration of an [open repository](https://exafoam.eu/open-repository/) containing all the validation and benchmark cases

*exaFOAM*

# History of our studies in Deucalion

## New record on OpenFOAM scalability - *exaFOAM*

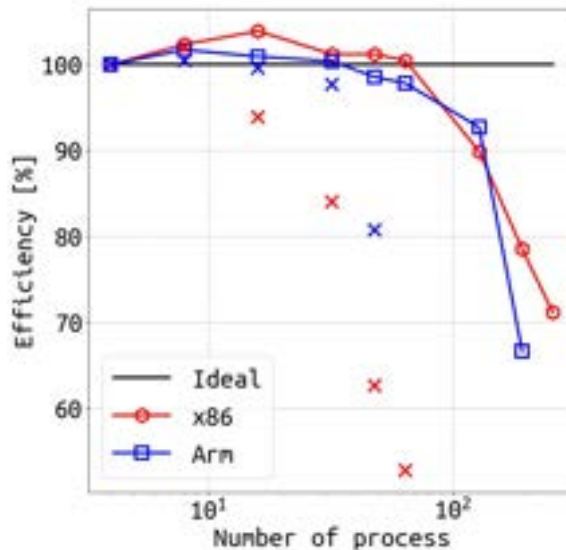
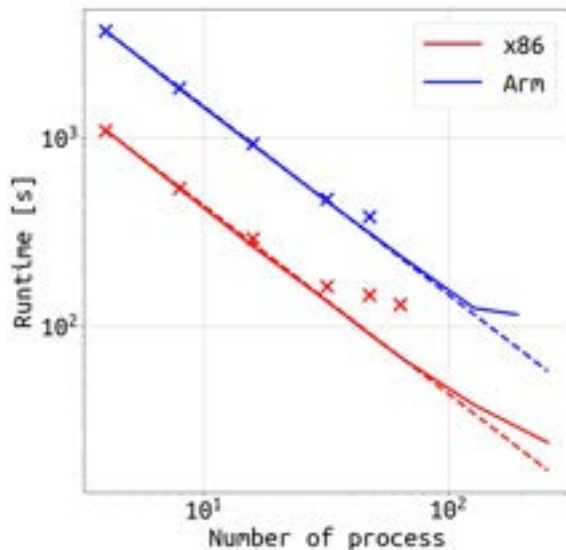


- Won the 19th HPC Innovation Excellence Awards
- 4.096 nodes (524.288 CPU cores)
- HLRS's Hawk supercomputer (**26 PFlops**)
- Exceeded the previous scaling record for a simulation using OpenFOAM by a factor of four

# History of our studies in Deucalion

## EVALUATING OPENFOAM PERFORMANCE ON DEUCALION, THE LARGEST PORTUGUESE SUPERCOMPUTER

- GABRIEL M. MAGALHÃES, BERNARDO F. MALACA, ANTÓNIO L. SOUSA, JOÃO M. NÓBREGA
- Published in FOAM@Iberia 2024 - Ferrol, Spain



# History of our studies in Deucalion

Bruno Santos (wyldckat)



- One of the main contributors of OpenFOAM community in forums, wikis, ...
- Main developer of [blueCFD-Core](#)
- More than 10,000 posts in CFD-Online forum, the most famous CFD discussion forum (all related to OpenFOAM)
- More than 50 open source repositories
- Advanced knowledge both in OpenFOAM, compilers and processor architectures.

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# Challenges of OpenFOAM in ARM architecture

- Most of the OpenFOAM distributions are ready to compile in ARM architecture
- The foam-extend distribution needs some adjustments to allow using the Fujitsu compiler
  - [Git path](#) developed during exaFOAM by UMinho team
- Deucalion has different OpenFOAM versions and distributions available as modules (load and use)

Which are the main difficulties for OpenFOAM in ARM processors?

**Spoiler:** are the same as for x86 architecture



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# The OpenFOAM matrix format

- The matrix  $A$  has a symmetric sparsity pattern with a full diagonal
- Matrix  $A$  is decomposed as the sum of a diagonal, a lower and an upper triangular matrix

$$A = L + D + U$$

$D$  is stored as a **dense vector**

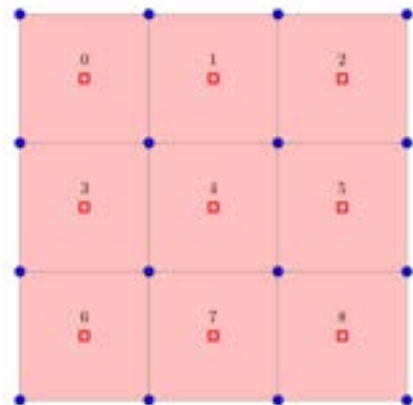
$L$  has the **same sparsity pattern** of  $U$ . In case of symmetric matrix, even the same values.

- The idea is to store a single sparsity pattern for  $U$  and  $L$ . For  $D$  the sparsity pattern is implicit.
- We can define a family of LDU storage formats, according to the storage format of  $U$  (and implicitly for  $L$ )

# The OpenFOAM matrix format

## LDU (ordered COO variant) storage formats

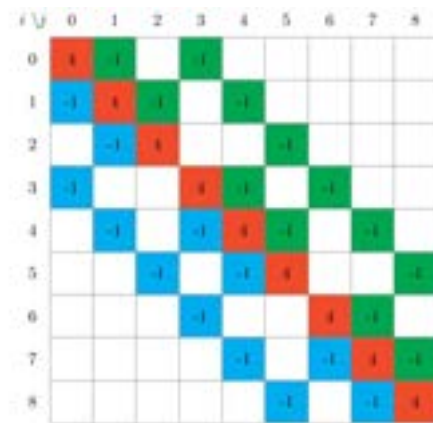
- The LDU variant implemented in OpenFOAM is L(ordered COO)+D+U(ordered COO), where COO stands for Coordinate Format.
- Owner and Neighbors are the two int vectors that store the sparsity pattern in COO format.
- In order to use the same vectors for the sparsity pattern of U and L. U values are stored per rows. L values per columns



upper = [-1 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1]

diag = [4 4 4 4 4 4 4]

lower = [-1 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1]



upperAddr = [1 3 2 4 5 4 6 5 7 8]

lowerAddr = [0 0 1 1 2 3 3 4 4 5 6 7]

**Problem:** this format doesn't allow for vectorization

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# Vectorization and optimization in OpenFOAM

- It is possible to use several flags in the compilation of OpenFOAM but the question is:

Is it safe to use these flags?



- We analyzed different scenarios in Deucalion using different benchmark cases



Let's check the results...



# Flags in the compilation: the OpenFOAM versions

OpenFOAM v23.12: **Arm** partition **GCC**

O2

O2 + Vectorization

OFast

OFast + Vectorization

OpenFOAM v23.12: **Arm** partition **Fujitsu**

O2

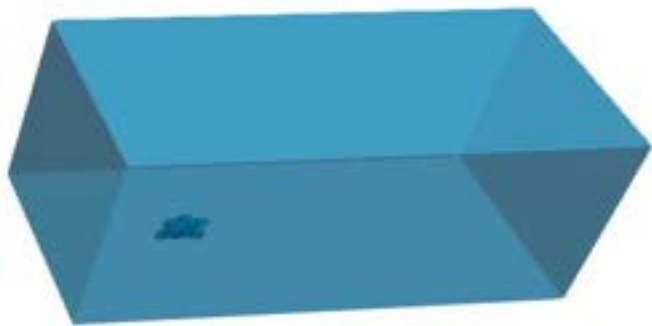
O2 + Vectorization

KFast

KFast + Vectorization

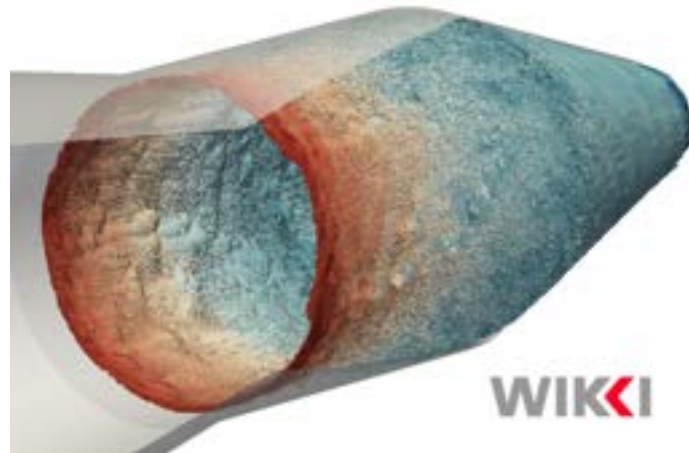
# Flags in the compilation: the cases

## Small motor bike [\[Link\]](#)



- 8.6M cells
- From begin
- 500 iterations

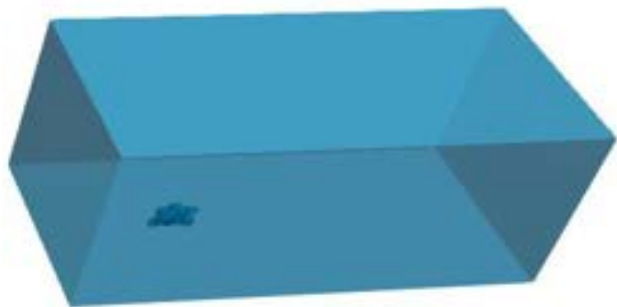
## (MB10) ERCOFTAC Conical Diffuser LES [\[Link\]](#)



- 3M cells
- From restart [\[Link\]](#)
- 500 iterations

# Flags in the compilation: results

Small motor bike [\[Link\]](#)



- 8.6M cells
- From begin
- 500 iterations

Flag	Vec	Time [s]
O2	No	4393
OFast	No	4155
O2	Yes	4068
OFast	Yes	3770
O2	No	4263
KFast	No	3533
O2	Yes	4063
KFast	Yes	3133

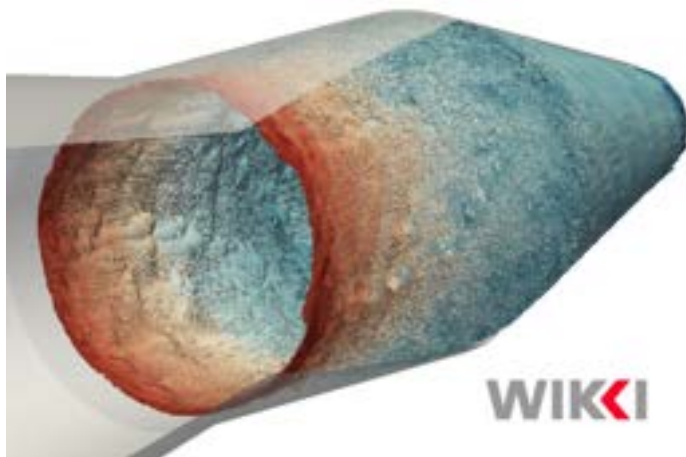


29%



# Flags in the compilation: the cases

(MB10) ERCOFTAC Conical  
Diffuser LES [\[Link\]](#)



- 3 million cells
- From restart [\[Link\]](#)
- 500 iterations

Flag	Vec	Time [s]
O2	No	1649
OFast	No	1547
O2	Yes	1804
OFast	Yes	1714
O2	No	1695
KFast	No	1284
O2	Yes	1608
KFast	Yes	1402



↘ 22%



**Pay attention on the accuracy!**  
**The result changes**

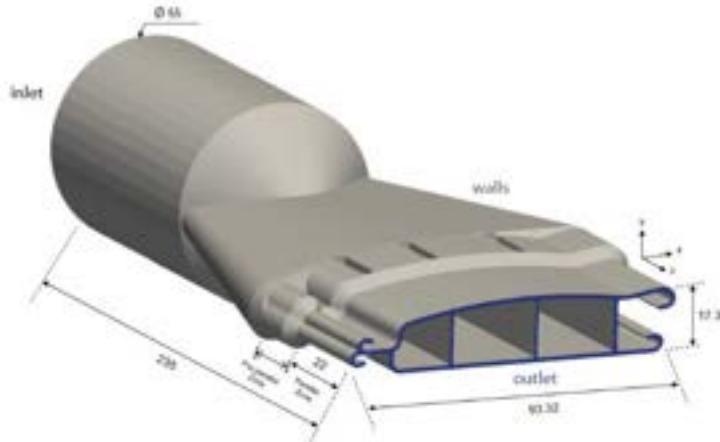
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# Memory requirements

- The ARM nodes in Deucalion have 32GB of RAM versus 256GB in the AMD nodes
- Some operations in CFD workflow requires a lot of memory (e.g.. mesh generation and other mesh operations)
- Huge industrial cases can require a lot of memory to run the simulation



## exaFOAM benchmark B4

- 40 million cells
- Real industrial case (geometry and fluid)
- Coupled solver

**845.6 GB (~27 nodes)**

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# Evaluation of OpenFOAM performance in ARM processors

## A64FX

FUJITSU Supercomputer PRIMEHPC FX700  
CPU: A64FX (2.0GHz, 48core/chip, 1 chip/node)  
Memory: 32GiB (HBM2: 8GiB x4)  
DISK: 1x M.2 SSD 512GB NVMe  
Interconnect: 1x HDR100HCA  
RAM total speed: 1024 GiB/s

## AMD EPYC

Bull Sequana X440 A5  
CPU: 2x AMD EPYC 7742 (2.25-3.4GHz, 64 Cores)  
Memory: 256GB DDR4  
DISK: 1x 480GB SSD  
Interconnect: 1x HDR100HCA  
RAM total speed per socket: 190.7 GiB/s

## NOTES

- As the hyperthread is not activated the clock of AMD is 3.4GHz
- The clock ratio is 1.7 (3.4 GHz/2 GHz)
- Each node has 2 AMD EPYC with 8 memory channels each
- AMD L3 cache is 256 MB (shared)
- AMD L3 cache is roughly 2x RAM speed

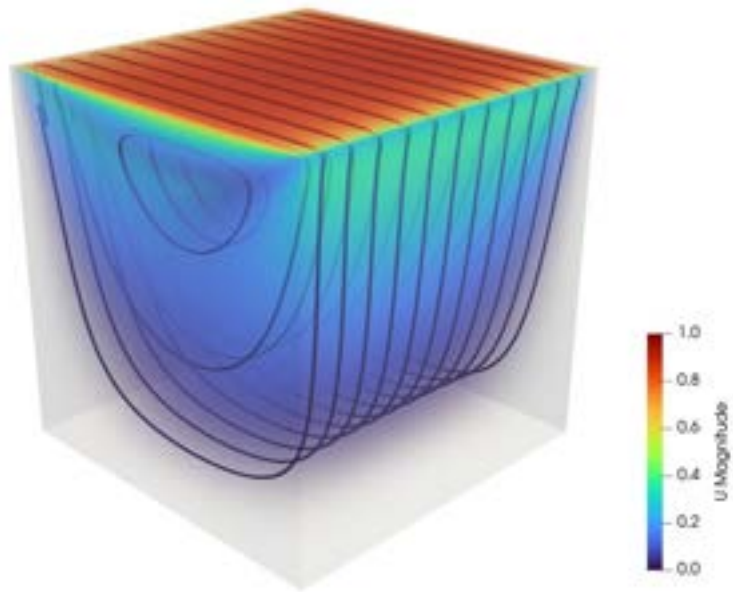
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# Tests descriptions and motivations

## Our main test case



- Micro-benchmark 1 of exaFOAM ([MB1](#))
- OpenFOAM v23.12
- icoFoam solver (just solves pressure)
- 3D case
- Meshes from 262k to 64M cells
- Regular hexahedral mesh
- $t = 0.05$  s (100 iterations)





# Tests descriptions and motivations

## Evaluated meshes

262 k

512 k

8 M

42 M

64 M

## Evaluated scenarios

- OpenMPI flags (ordered)
- Method for domain decomposition
- Bounded or no by cache memory

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# Memory binding policy results

Compared to "spread", this policy should maximise the amount of L3 cache available to each thread.

**close:** The idea here is to keep the threads as close as possible, i.e. minimising core-core

threads 16		core									
policy	close	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
NUMA node	0	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
	1	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		
	2										
	3										
	4										
	5										
	6										
	7										

--map-by core

**spread:** With the idea to make use of all available memory bandwidth

threads 16		core									
policy	spread	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
NUMA node	0	0	1								
	1	2	3								
	2	4	5								
	3	6	7								
	4	8	9								
	5	10	11								
	6	12	13								
	7	14	15								

--map-by numa

**scatter:** The idea behind this is that each NUMA node is divided again into 2 groups of 4 cores, where each group has its own L3 cache.

threads 16		core									
policy	scatter	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
NUMA node	0	0				1					
	1	2				3					
	2	4				5					
	3	6				7					
	4	8				9					
	5	10				11					
	6	12				13					
	7	14				15					

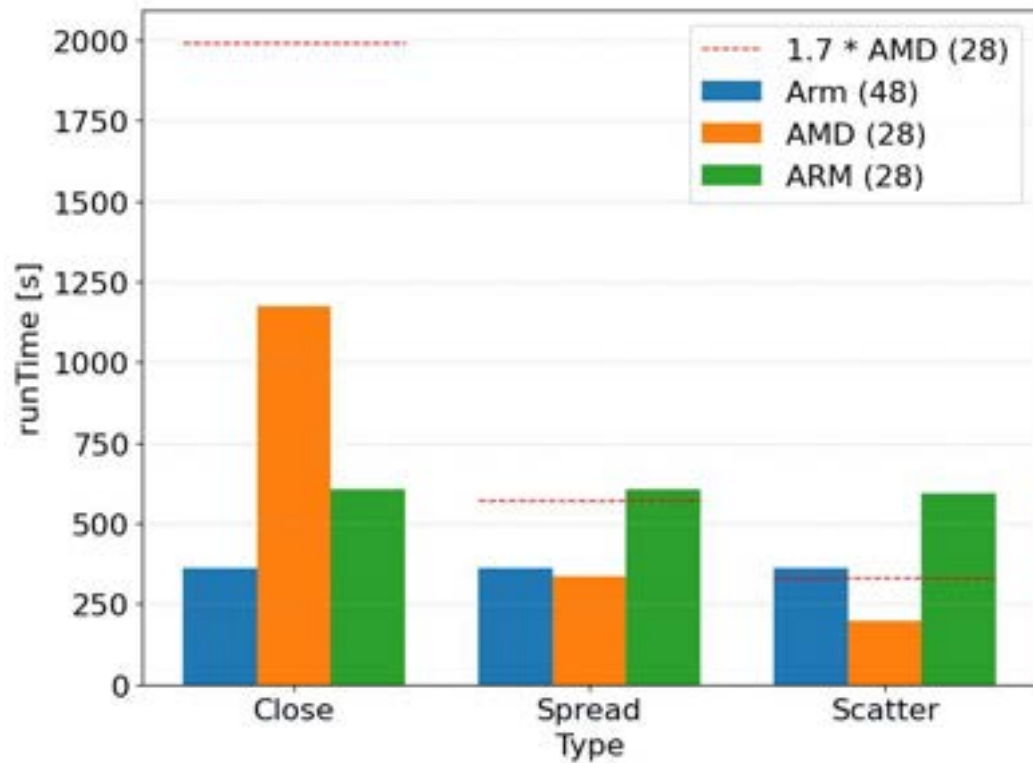
--map-by 13cache

# Memory binding policy results - runTime [s]

Type	Arm (48)	AMD (28)	ARM (28)
Close	362	1172	605
Spread	361	337	604
Scatter	362	196	591

Cavity 8M cells

1 node





# Important points to perform a speed-up test

- The speedup  $\sigma$  for a simulation with  $n$  cores beginning with  $i$  cores is computed as follows:

$$\sigma_n = \frac{T_i}{T_n}$$

T is the run time

- The parallel efficiency is defined as:

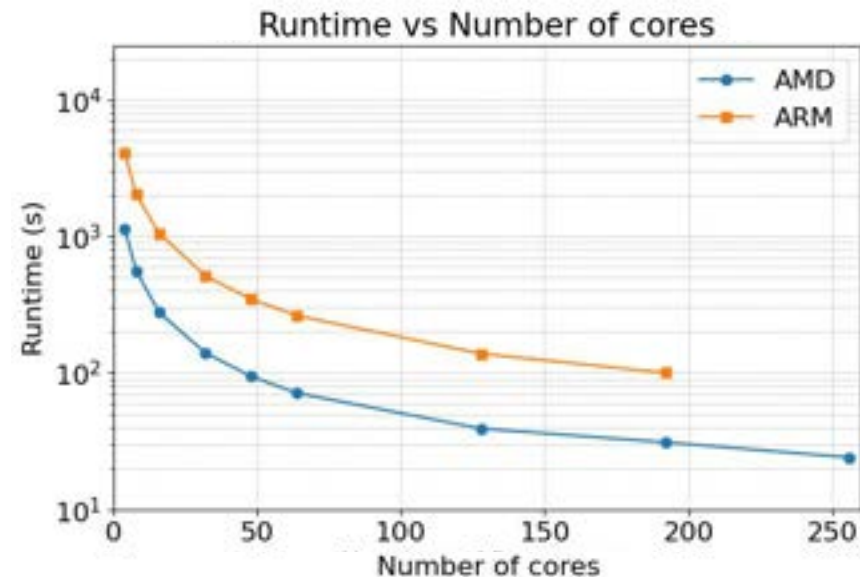
$$\epsilon_n = 100 \left( \frac{i}{n} \sigma_n \right)$$

- The speedup must be close to  $n$  and the efficiency must be close to 100%

# Speed-up and efficiency results

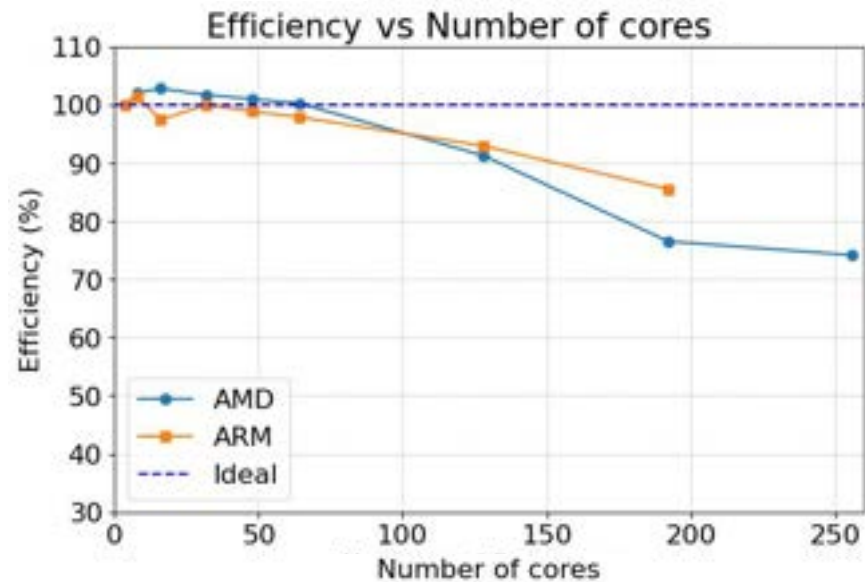
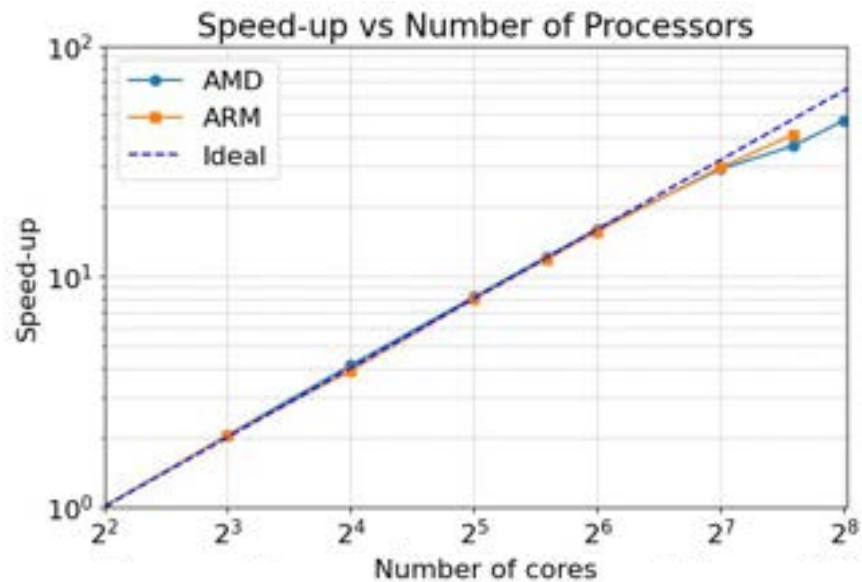
8M cells

nProcs	Cells per proc	Runtime [s]		Speed-up		Efficiency [%]	
		AMD	ARM	AMD	ARM	AMD	ARM
4	2,000,000	1,139	4,104	1.00	1.00	100.0	100.0
8	1,000,000	558	2,022	2.04	2.03	102.1	101.5
16	500,000	277	1,053	4.11	3.90	102.8	97.4
32	250,000	140	513	8.14	8.00	101.7	100.0
48	166,667	94	346	12.12	11.86	101.0	98.8
64	125,000	71	262	16.04	15.66	100.3	97.9
128	62,500	39	138	29.21	29.74	91.3	92.9
192	41,667	31	100	36.74	41.04	76.5	85.5
256	31,250	24		47.46		74.2	



# Speed-up and efficiency results

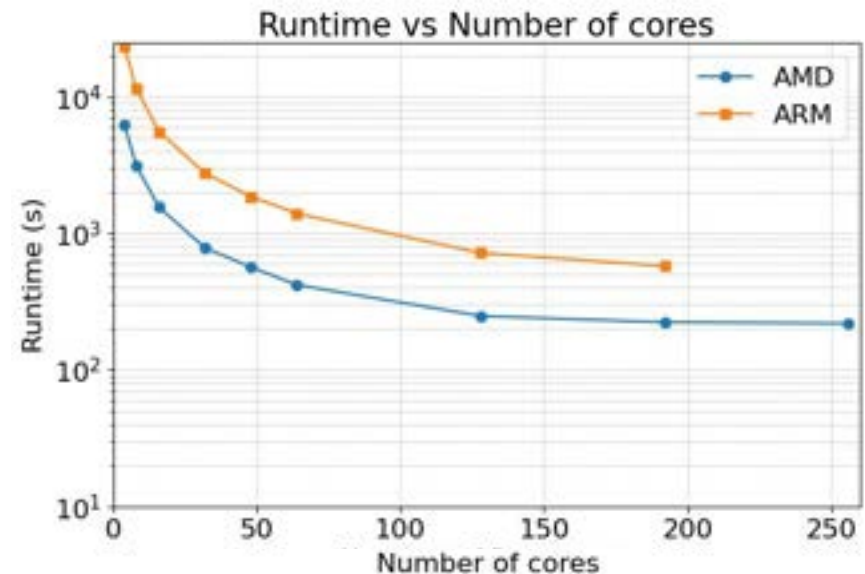
## 8M cells



# Speed-up and efficiency results

## 42M cells

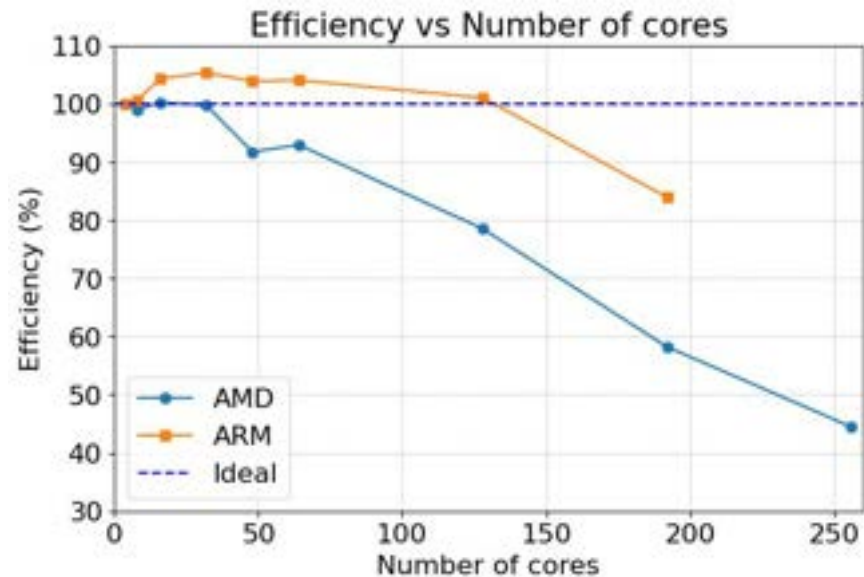
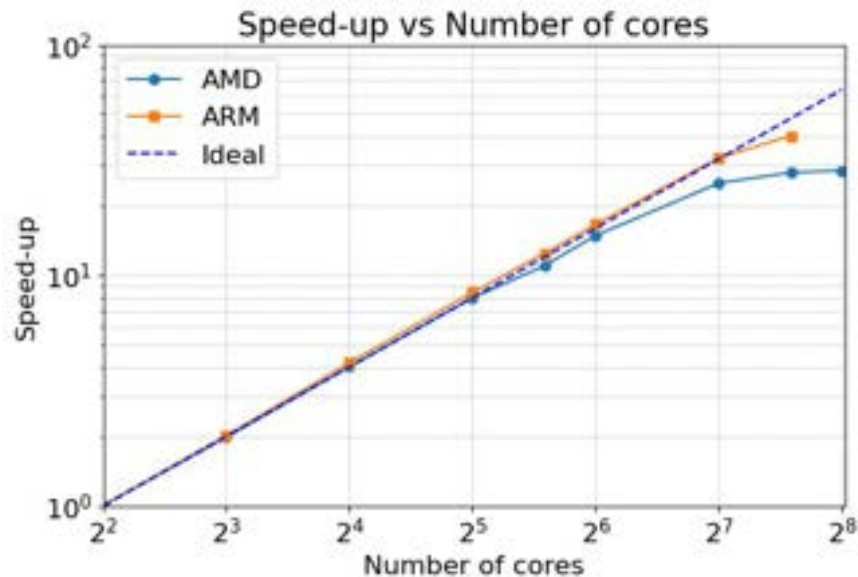
nProcs	Cells per proc	Runtime [s]		Speed-up		Efficiency [%]	
		AMD	ARM	AMD	ARM	AMD	ARM
4	2,000,000	6231	23210	1.00	1.00	100	100.0
8	1,000,000	3148	11532	1.98	2.01	99.0	100.6
16	500,000	1554	5562	4.01	4.17	100.2	104.3
32	250,000	781	2754	7.98	8.43	99.7	105.3
48	166,667	566	1862	11.01	12.47	91.7	103.9
64	125,000	419	1394	14.87	16.65	92.9	104.1
128	62,500	248	718	25.13	32.33	78.5	101.0
192	41,667	223	576	27.94	40.30	58.2	83.9
256	31,250	219		28.45		44.5	





# Speed-up and efficiency results

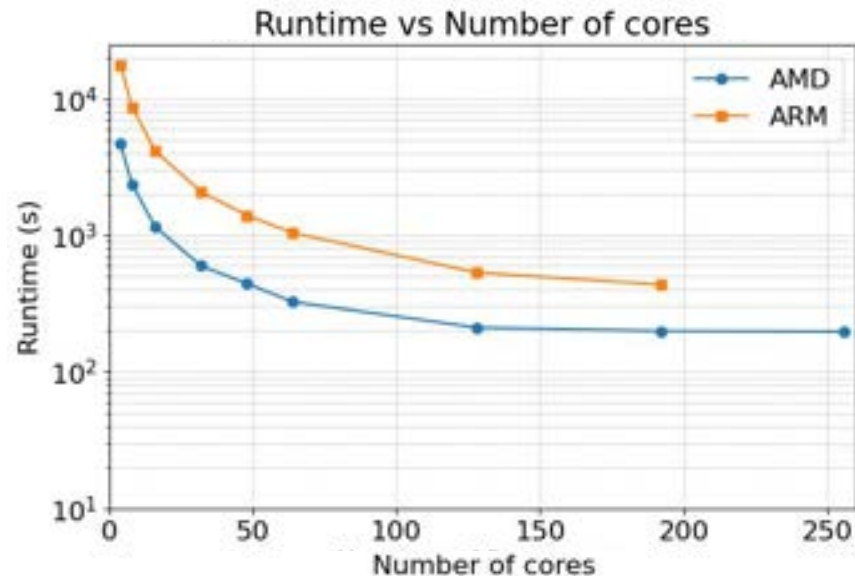
## 42M cells



# Speed-up and efficiency results

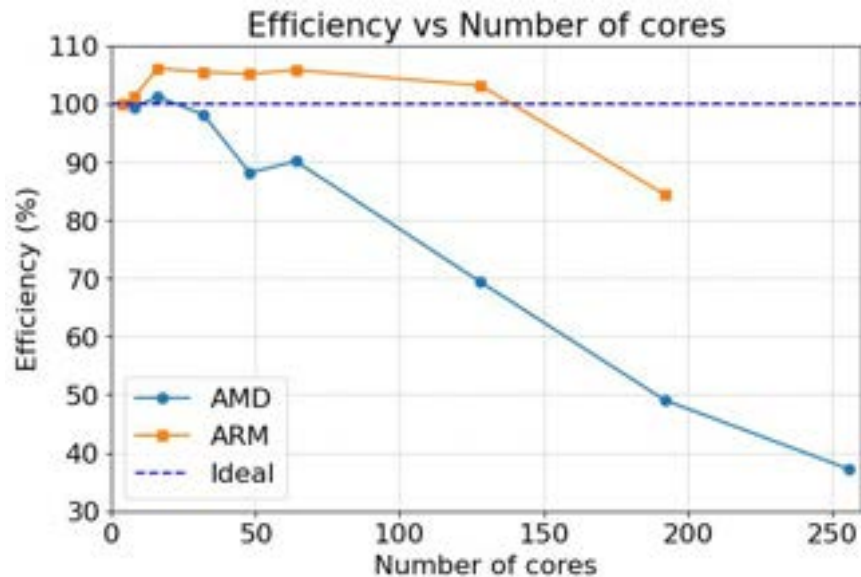
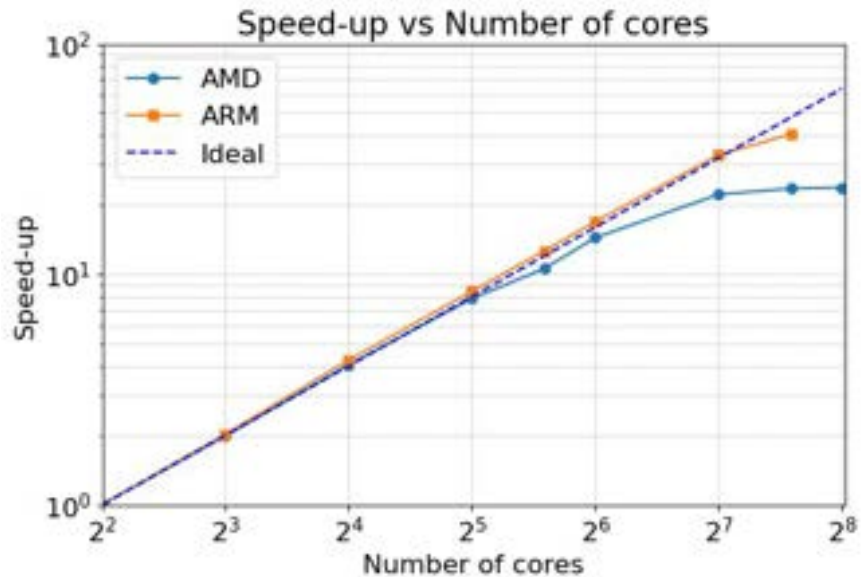
## 64M cells

nProcs	Cells per proc	Runtime [s]		Speed-up		Efficiency [%]	
		AMD	ARM	AMD	ARM	AMD	ARM
4	2,000,000	4686	17624	1.00	1.00	100	100
8	1,000,000	2358	8710	1.99	2.02	99.4	101.2
16	500,000	1157	4153	4.05	4.24	101.3	106.1
32	250,000	597	2089	7.85	8.44	98.1	105.5
48	166,667	443	1397	10.58	12.62	88.1	105.1
64	12,5000	325	1041	14.42	16.93	90.1	105.8
128	62,500	211	534	22.21	33.00	69.4	103.1
192	41,667	199	435	23.55	40.51	49.1	84.4
256	31,250	197		23.79		37.2	

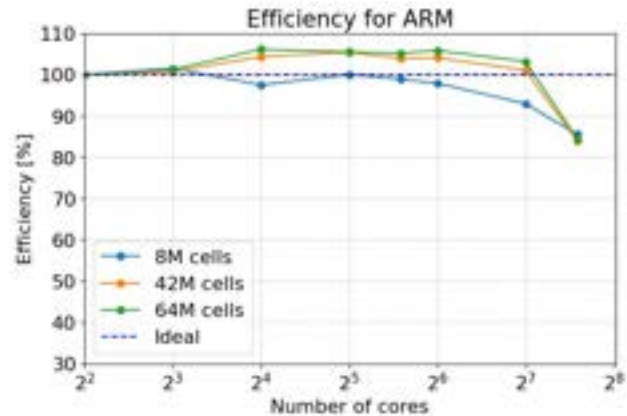
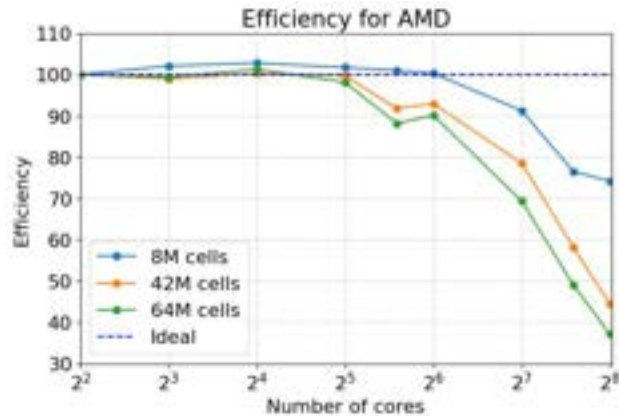
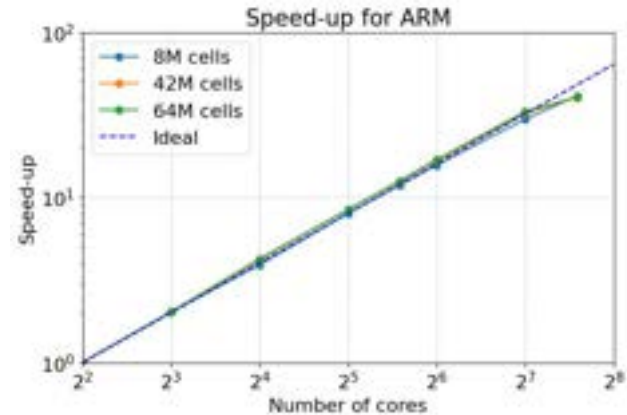
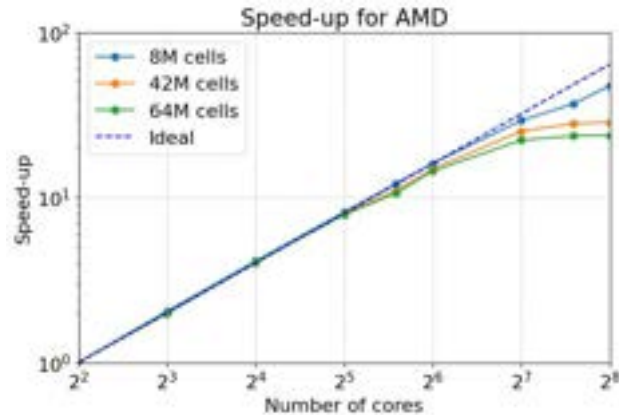


# Speed-up and efficiency results

## 64M cells



# Speed-up and efficiency results



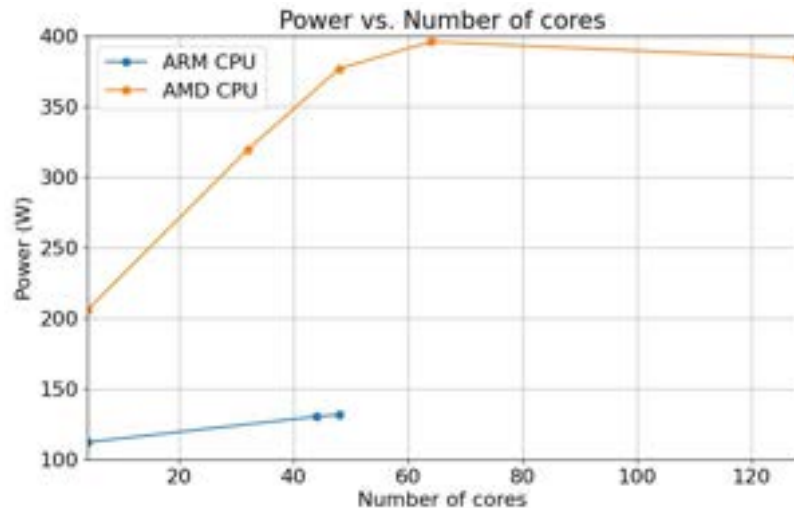
# Agenda

- Introduction
  - What is CFD?
  - What is OpenFOAM?
  - History of our studies in Deucalion
- Challenges of OpenFOAM in ARM architecture
  - The OpenFOAM matrix format
  - Is it possible to use vectorization in OpenFOAM?
  - Memory requirement
- **Evaluation of OpenFOAM performance in ARM processors**
  - Tests descriptions and motivations
  - Speed-up and efficiency results
  - **Energy efficiency**
- Future work - Ideas of how to improve the OpenFOAM performance in ARM architectures
- Take home messages



# Energy efficiency

Processor	# cores	# cells per proc	runTime [s]	Elapsed time [s]	Energy CPU [kWh]	Power CPU [W]
ARM	4	2000000	4065	4175	0.13017	112.24
ARM	44	181818	386	484	0.01753	130.39
<b>ARM</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>166667</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>0.01699</b>	<b>131.82</b>
AMD	4	2000000	1142	1182	0.06763	205.98
AMD	32	250000	164	218	0.01935	319.54
<b>AMD</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>166667</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>0.01916</b>	<b>376.92</b>
AMD	64	125000	128	176	0.01936	396.00
AMD	128	62500	122	187	0.01998	384.64



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# How to improve OpenFOAM performance in ARM architecture?

## 1 - Build matrices in a vectorizable format

- By modifying how OpenFOAM constructs the equation matrices (LDU-orderedCOO) directly into a vectorizable algorithm (e.g. CSR format).
- It would allow direct plugging into PETSc, which has several optimized algorithms for this format.

**NOTE:** Some implementations exist in this way, but all of them are based on conversions from the OpenFOAM format to CSR, which penalizes the efficiency (e.g. [FOAM2CSR](#))





# How to improve OpenFOAM performance in ARM architecture?

## 2 - Use a vectorizable format

- Once the CSR matrix is available, the first option would be to simply use a compatible implementation present in PETSc to ARM's SVE.
- Not sure which exact configuration it is, but it should be similar to Intel/AMD's AVX512 (advanced vector extensions 512bits - i.e. 64 double floating point values).

**NOTE:** Some implementations exist in this way, but all of them are based on conversions from the OpenFOAM format to CSR, which penalizes the efficiency (e.g. [FOAM2CSR](#))

# How to improve OpenFOAM performance in ARM architecture?

## 3 - Use an OpenMP implementation

- As a second (cumulative) option, leverage OpenMP implementation in PETSc to feed matrix chunks from RAM onto L2 cache and crunch it with all cores. E.g.: 4 processes, 12 threads per process; each process would populate the L2 cache and then all 12 cores would crunch the buffered payload.
- Use `--with-openmp` flag to allow PETSc to be used within an OpenMP application. If your application calls PETSc from within OpenMP threads then also use `--with-threadsafety` flag.
- Use `--with-openmp-kernels` flag to have some PETSc numerical routines use OpenMP to speed up their computations. This requires `--with-openmp` flag.
- Note that using OpenMP within MPI code must be done carefully to prevent too many OpenMP threads that might overload the calculation cores.



# How to improve OpenFOAM performance in ARM architecture?

## Important notes

- The possibilities for future works were thought aiming to extract the maximum performance of ARM architectures for OpenFOAM runs
- Use the CSR structure directly on the matrix building could open additional possibilities in other fronts
- When implementing the suggested approaches, the x86 architectures could also reach a better performance
- Some of the developments in the future works could contribute for better results of OpenFOAM in GPUs
- The [HMM project at ROCm](#) apparently is implementing something in this way (apparently they have [something related to OpenMP](#) also)

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# Take home messages

The ARM partition of Deucalion is fully prepared to run OpenFOAM simulations

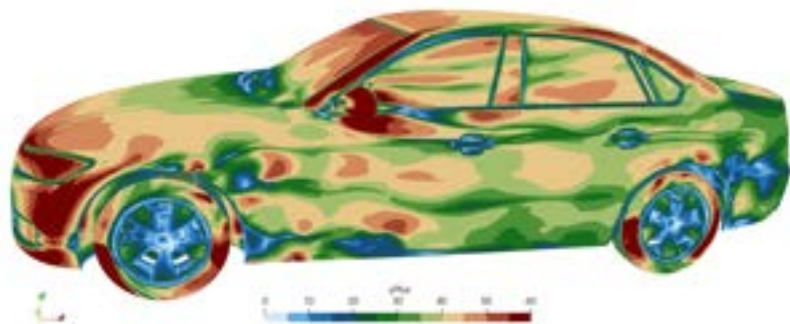
Compare ARM and x86 architectures when using OpenFOAM is not trivial

The energy efficiency of ARM processors is better than AMD (green500)

Efficiency of ARM architecture in the speed-up tests is better than AMD

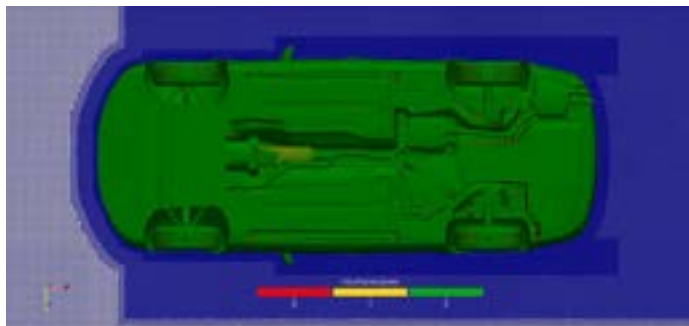
# Industrial case

## Open-closed cooling DrivAer variant with rotating mesh



- Full car model with closed coolings and a complex underbody
- Turbulence model:  $k-\omega$  SST DDES
- 238M cells
- 384 cores (24 nodes)

\*We are doing our post processing



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# **EPICURE HPC in ARM Architecture Hackathon**

Assessing the Performance and Scalability of ARM  
Processors for Industrial Applications

**Gabriel Marcos Magalhães**

**INESC TEC / PIEP**