

WSSP 41, Stuttgart 2026

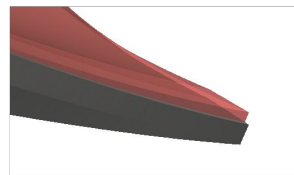
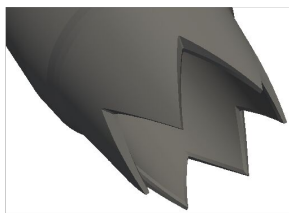
Aeroacoustic Optimization of a Chevron Nozzle on the Hunter HPC System

Matthias Meinke
A. Niemöller, D. Krug
`m.meinke@aia.rwth-aachen.de`

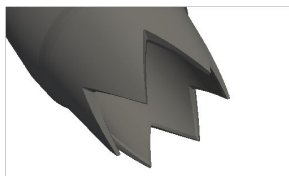
Institute of Aerodynamics
RWTH Aachen University
Aachen, Germany



- Shape optimization of a chevron nozzle as an engineering HPC application with the motivation to mitigate aeroacoustic noise
- Activities embedded in the European Center of Excellence **EXCELLERAT**
- Noise predictions based on the m-AIA simulation framework



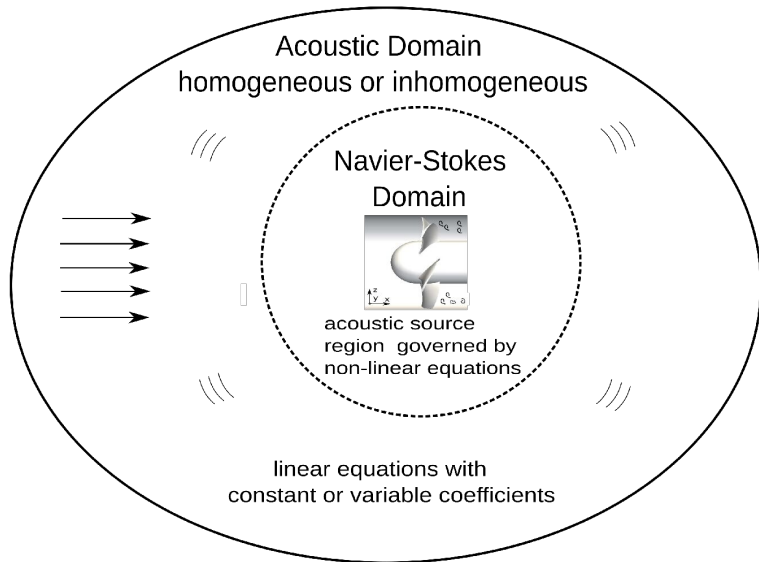
Penetration angle: baseline $\alpha = 5^\circ$ (grey), 8° (red)

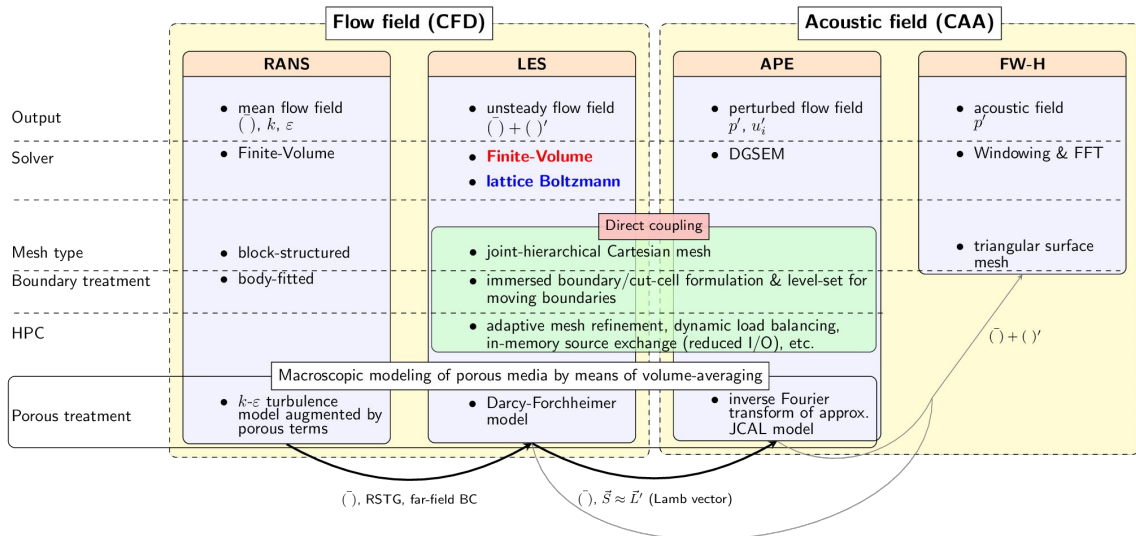


$S=0.55$

$S=0.75$

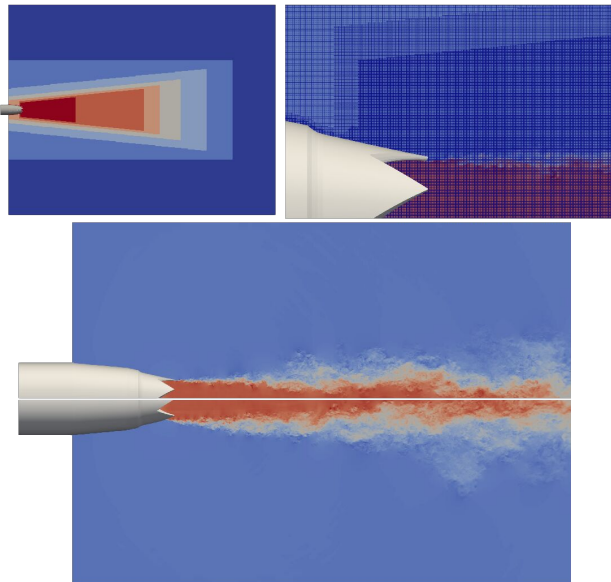
Geometry = $S \cdot \text{sinusoidal} + (1 - S) \cdot \text{triangular shape}$





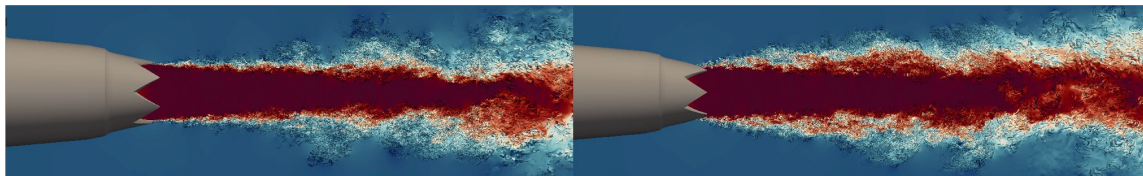
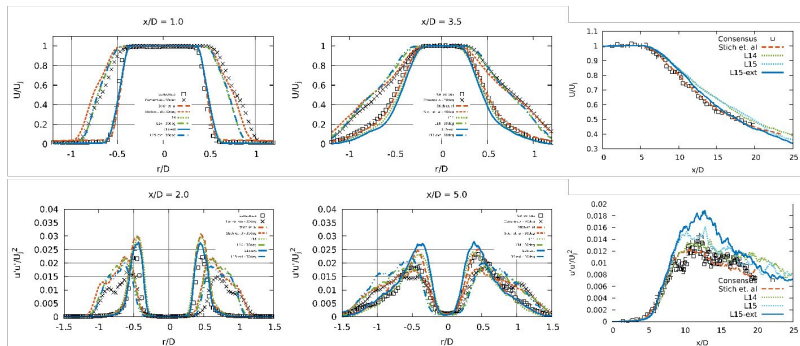
Shape optimization of nozzle shapes

- Automation of aeroacoustic prediction workflow to be tested for increasingly complex problems → Chevron shape optimization
- Large-scale aeroacoustic simulations of the SMC001 chevron nozzle at $Re=10^6$ → Validation and data analytics
- grid refinement study:
CFD: 1.5 → 2.1 → 3.7 billion cells
- CAA: 77 million elements → 4.9 billion DOF
- Complete turbulent flow field to acoustic far-field approach: CFD → coupled CFD/CAA → FWH



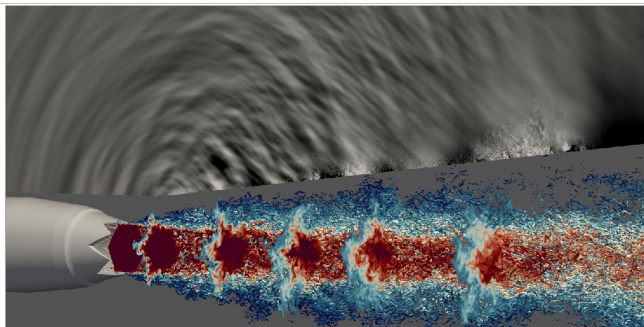
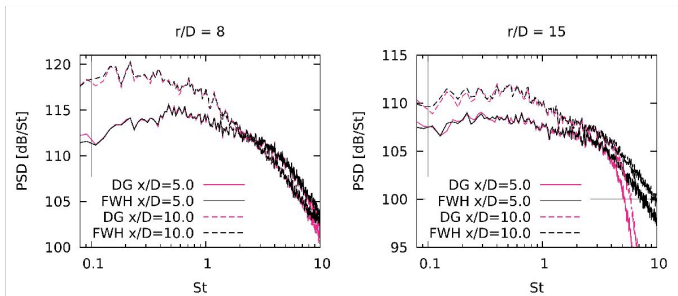
SMC001 Flow field results

- Overall good agreement with reference data
- Overprediction of turbulence intensities downstream of potential core end on highest resolution grid
- Uncertainties: e.g. nozzle synthetic turbulence inlet BC,
- Impact of CFD resolution on acoustic far-field noise?



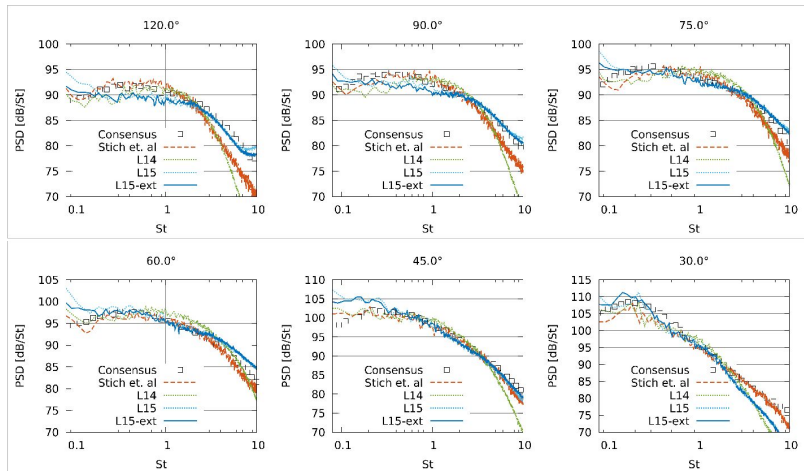
SMC001 Acoustic field

- Comparison of DG and DG-FWH predictions in near far-field
- DG: high-resolution up to $r/D=8$; frequency cut-off at larger distances
- FWH utilizes high-resolution data sampled on a surface enclosing the acoustic sources
- Negligible impact of exact surface placement
- High surface resolution: almost identical results with 50% less surface elements
- Highest refined case: CFD 3.7B cells, CAA 4.9B DOF
- CFD only: 2048 nodes
Coupled CFD-CAA: 4096 nodes



SMC001 Acoustic far-field

- Power spectral density of acoustic pressure on arc $r/D = 100$
- Overall high level of agreement for highest resolution grid
- Missing high-frequency content and mid-frequency overprediction for lower resolution grid
- Low impact of extension of high-resolution acoustic source region (L15 \rightarrow L15-ext)



Workflow Implementation

Single objective function evaluation

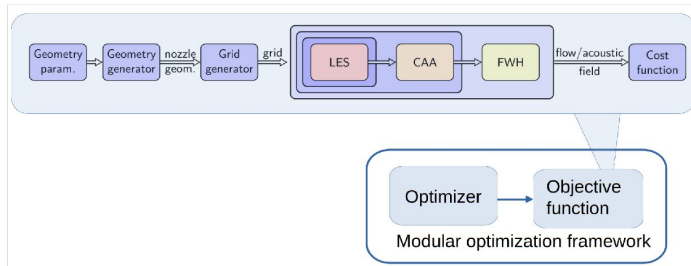
- Preprocessing
 - Chevron geometry: Matlab/Octave
 - Mesh generation: joint hierarchical Cartesian grid
- CFD: Finite-Volume solver
- Coupled CFD/CAA: Discontinuous Galerkin method for CAA
- FWH: time or frequency-domain method
- Postprocessing: Python / m-AIA

→ Automated simulation pipeline (easy to use/adapt/extend)

Full workflow automation is necessary for the optimization framework

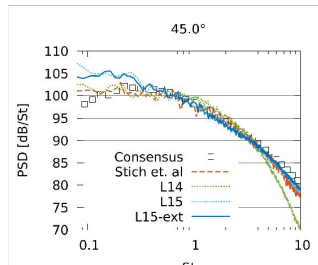
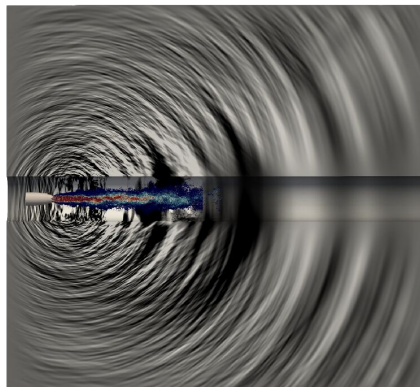
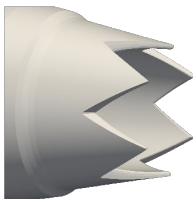
- Input: Chevron nozzle shape, flow parameters, configuration files, jobscript templates
- Optimizer: shape parameters, design space, constraints, ...
- Output: Objective function (noise reduction, thrust loss), sampled data, slices of flow/acoustic field

→ Optimized chevron shape parameters

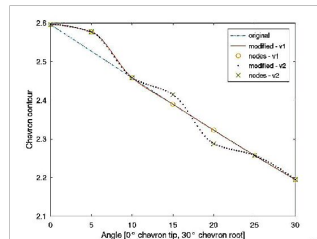
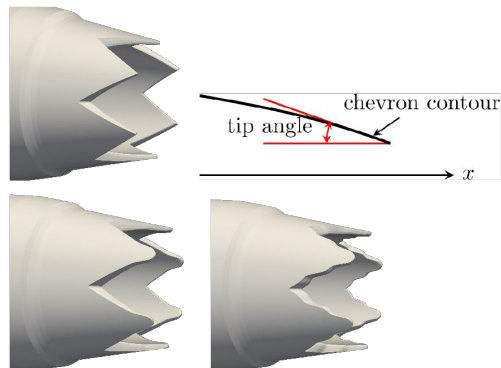


Case Setup

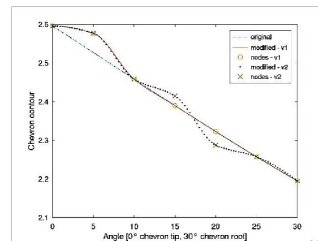
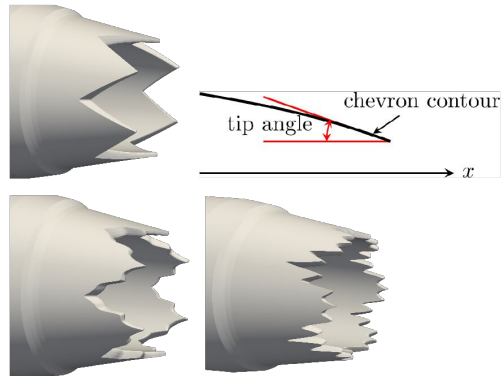
- Geometry definition based on SMC001 chevron nozzle
- High-resolution simulations performed at $Re_D=1 \cdot 10^6$
- Flow conditions for shape optimization:
 - Cold jet flow at $Ma=0.9$, $T_j=0.84$
 - Reynolds number: $Re_D=20,000$
 - Smaller scale simulation using $O(10-50 \cdot 10^6)$ cells
- Objective function
 - lower frequency noise reduction ($St_{min} < f < St_{max}$), range of observer angles
 - thrust loss penalty



- Geometry definition based on SMC001 chevron nozzle
- **Geometry parametrization:** 6 symmetric chevron lobes
- Chevron **tip angle**
- Chevron **shape:** triangular baseline
 - Add N points between chevron tip and root, 1 DoF each (e.g. $N=5$)
 - Piecewise Cubic Hermite Interpolating Polynomial (PCHIP): interpolates data points, continuous first derivative, shape preserving – no overshoots, few oscillations
- Automatic geometry generation in STL format (Matlab/Octave)
- $N+1$ **parameters:** high geometric flexibility



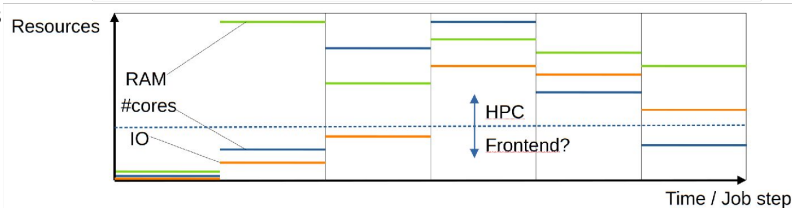
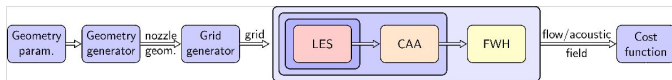
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Optimization of a Chevron Nozzle

Workflow

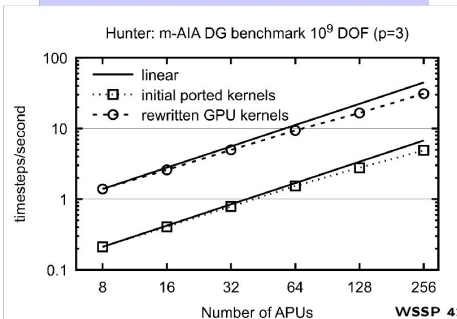
- Dependencies of workflow steps
- Differing resource requirements for each workflow stage
- Simultaneous evaluation of multiple designs by the Bayesian optimizer (FhG)



Target system: Hunter @ HLRS
AMD MI300A (x4 per node)
128 GB HBM3 per socket

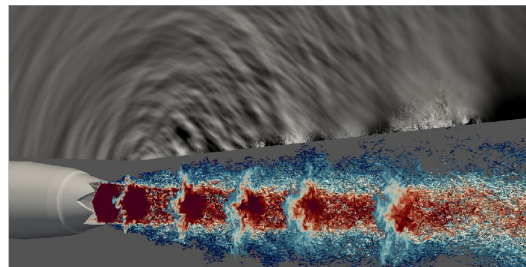
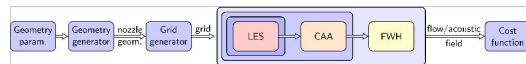
- **Goal:** single function evaluation on 1 node, <1 day runtime, use multiple nodes given decent strong scalability for small scale setup
- **Ongoing work:** optimize APU performance, eliminate remaining bottlenecks, enhance robustness

Rewritten DG kernels for MI300A



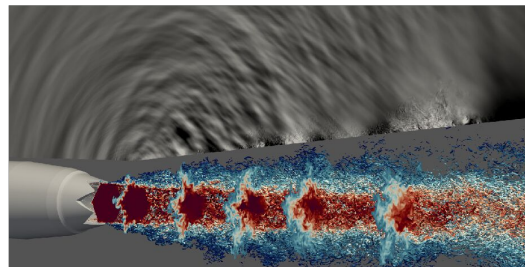
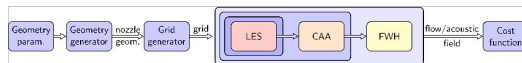
Simulation stage #1: CFD/LES

- 4 Hunter nodes / 16 MPI ranks, 1.6m 3.3m cells per APU
- **Run #1:** initial jet flow development
 - low CFL number, dynamic load balancing, ≈ 9 min runtime
- **Run #2:** advance to obtain fully developed flow field
 - $T=185 D/c_0$, 0.0294 s/timestep, ≈ 25 min runtime
- **Run #3:** compute mean flow field
 - $T_{avg}=200 D/c_0$, ≈ 30 min runtime
- **Overall:** ≈ 40 min ≈ 65 min runtime on 4 nodes
- **Start from fully developed flow field:** ≈ 45 min



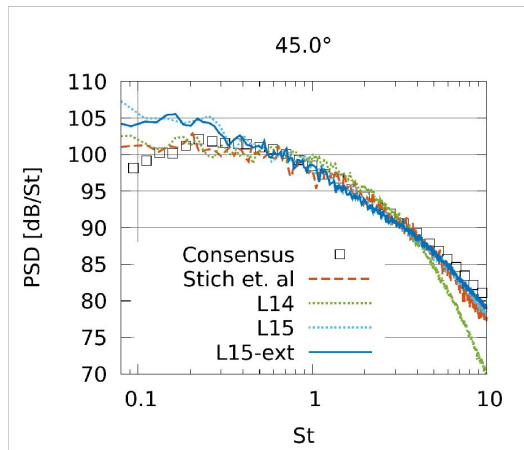
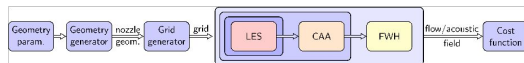
Simulation stage #2: Coupled CFD-CAA

- 4 Hunter nodes / 16 MPI ranks
- 3.3m FV cells and 6.1m DG DoF per APU, memory ≈ 16 GB per process
- **Run #1:** initial run with dynamic load balancing, no data sampling, ≈ 8 min runtime
- **Run #2:** Acoustic prediction with surface sampling in the near field
 - $T_{mboxac} = 240 D/c_0$, 0.089 s/timestep, ≈ 75 min runtime
- **Overall: 1.4h** runtime on 4 nodes



Simulation stage #3: FWH far-field prediction

- 1 Hunter node / 4 MPI ranks
- FWH surface: 470k surface elements
- 6144 samples, $dt=0.03 D/c_0$, $T=184 D/c_0$
- Data size: 86GB
- Welch's method for PSD estimation: window size of 1024 samples, 50% overlap
- ≈ 90 GB memory per process \rightarrow finer surfaces/more samples per window require more nodes to be used
- 1368 observer points in the far-field at $R=100 D$
- **Runtime:** ≈ 7 min

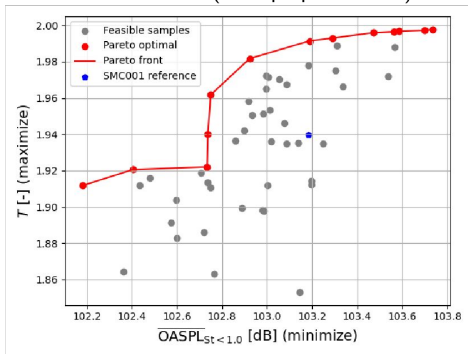


Optimization using 4-shape parameters

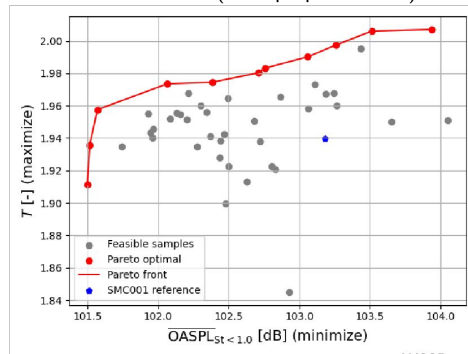
- Parameter space:
 $\alpha \in [0^\circ, 10^\circ]$, $x_1-x_3 \in [0.0, 1.0]$
- Work in progress: 46 feasible configurations finished
- Overall ≈ 100 simulations (2 and 4 shape parameters)
- 4p case more promising in terms of noise reduction
- 4p optimization can be augmented using the 2p results



Pareto front (2 shape parameters)



Pareto front (4 shape parameters)



m-AIA is ported to APU/GPUs using the **Parallel Standard Template Library (PSTL)**

- Introduced in C++ since version 17
- Adds support of parallel execution to existing functions from `<algorithm>`
- Examples: `for_each`, `sort`, `find`, `transform_reduce`, ...
- Actual parallel implementation is provided by Vendors (AMD, NVIDIA)
- Other GPU programming models (OpenMP, SYCL, ...)
- Unifies CPU and GPU acceleration
- GPU: Memory transfer is implicitly managed and triggered by page faults on host/device

```
// Open-MP example
#pragma omp parallel for
for(Mint i = 0; i < a_noCells(); i++) {
    a_variable(i, PV->U) = 1.0;
    a_variable(i, PV->RHO) = a_coordinate(i, 1) * m_densityGrad;
}

// Equivalent pstl
auto myRange = ranges::iota_view(0, noCells);
auto begin_ = ranges::begin(myRange);
std::for_each_n(std::execution::par_unseq, begin_, a_noCells(), [=](Mint i) {
    a_variable(i, PV->U) = 1.0;
    a_variable(i, PV->RHO) = a_coordinate(i, 1) * m_densityGrad;
})
```

Example for AMD compilation: `clang++ -hipstdpar -offload-arch=gfx ...`

m-AIA Lattice Boltzmann

- LB solver has been ported first due to its simple algorithm
- Main compute kernels:
 - Collision (local, high arithmetic intensity)
 - Propagation (non-local, no calculations)
 - MPI exchange

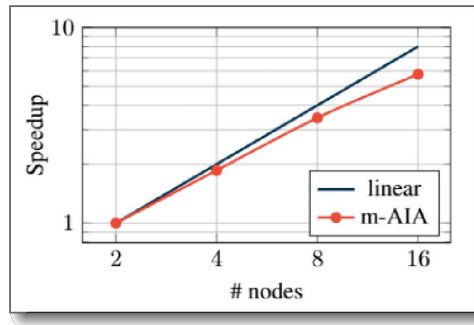
Taylor Green Vortex case with 40M cells

Kernel	CPU 128C AMD Genoa	GPU 1×MI300A	Ratio
Collision	0.0799	0.030730	2.6
Propagation	0.0901	0.029006	3.1
Exchange	0.0593	0.002609	-

Memory bandwidth ratio MI300A/Genoa is 3.8

Work in Progress/Future changes:

- Mixed precision to save memory bandwidth
- Further compute kernel fusion
- Interleaving MPI communication with compute kernels



m-AIA Finite-Volume Solver

Flow around an airfoil at $Re=800,000$, $M=0.6$
 $30 \cdot 10^6$ mesh cells



Initial Porting

Timer	CPU [s]	SoA [s]	Speedup
Time-integration	841.33	464.42	1.81

Porting from AoS to SoA

Timer	CPU [s]	SoA [s]	Speedup
Time-integration	841.33	301.63	2.79

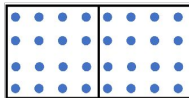
Further Optimization

- Fusion of convective and viscous flux kernels
- Reverse flux integral from push to pull

Timer	CPU [s]	SoA [s] Opt.	Speedup
Time-integration	841.33	234.89	3.58

m-AIA Discontinuous Galerkin Method

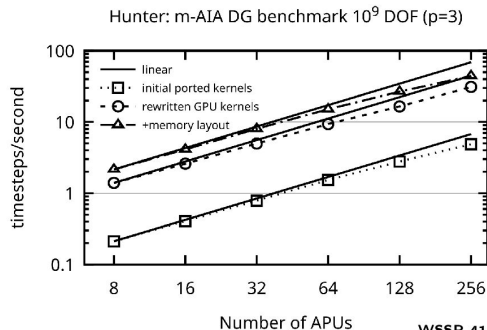
- Solution of the acoustic perturbation equations for coupled CFD/CAA simulations
- Initial porting, looping over elements/surfaces



- Optimization A: Looping over nodes directly, merge kernels
- Optimization B: Changing from AoS to SoA memory layout

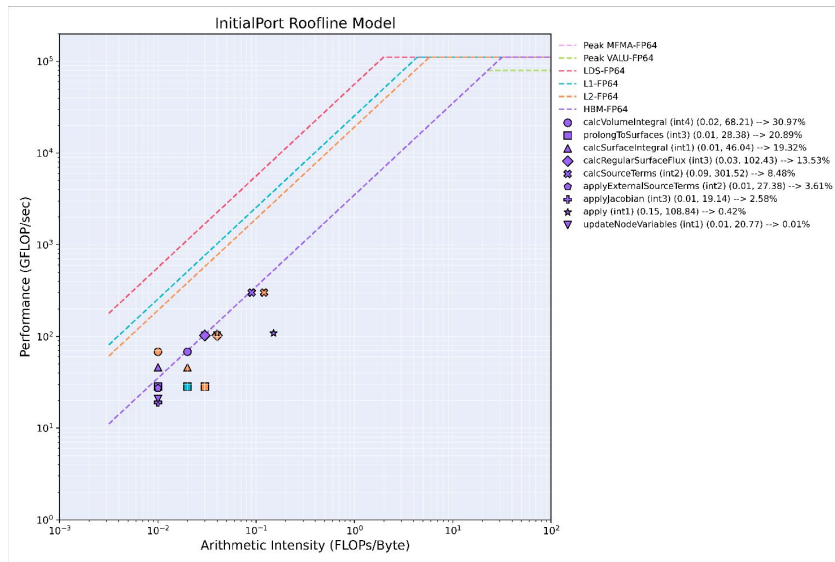
Initial PSTL	Opt. A	Opt. B
1.0	6.33	10.45

Kernel	min. time [ns]			Speedup	
	pstl baseline	gpu kernels	+mem layout	gpu kernels	+mem layout
Prolongation	1.77E+08	3.80E+07	1.37E+07	4.66	12.91
Volume integral	3.15E+08	4.30E+07	2.00E+07	7.32	15.80
Surface flux	1.16E+08	1.21E+07	9.47E+06	9.59	12.27
Surface integral	1.16E+08	1.87E+07	1.72E+07	6.21	6.76
Jacobian & sources	1.18E+08	1.53E+07	1.41E+07	7.74	8.38
Time integration	7.04E+06	7.19E+06	6.94E+06	0.98	1.01
Sum per RK stage	8.50E+08	1.34E+08	8.14E+07	6.33	10.45
Per timestep [s]	4.249	0.671	0.407		
Total time per step [s]	4.569	0.708	0.422		
Percentage of total	93.00%	94.84%	96.36%		



m-AIA Discontinuous Galerkin Method

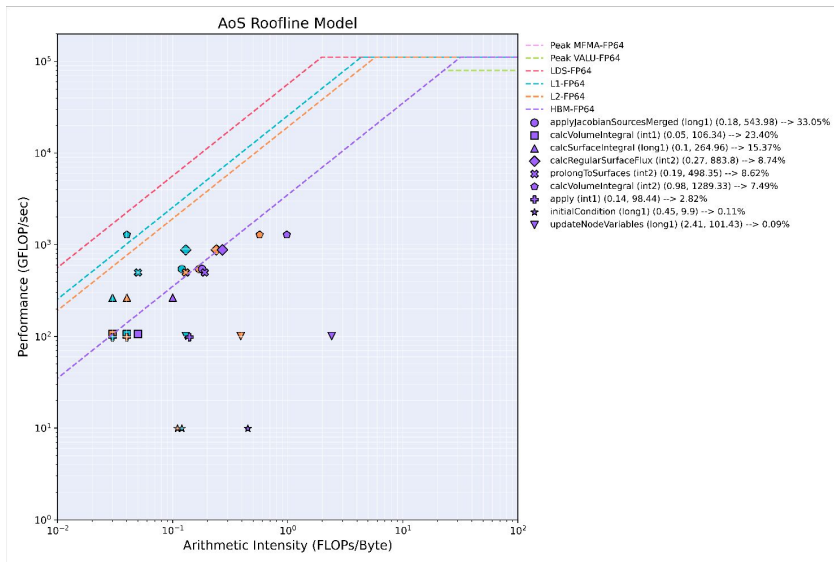
Initial PSTL Porting
looping over
elements/surfaces



m-AIA Discontinuous Galerkin Method

Optimization A:

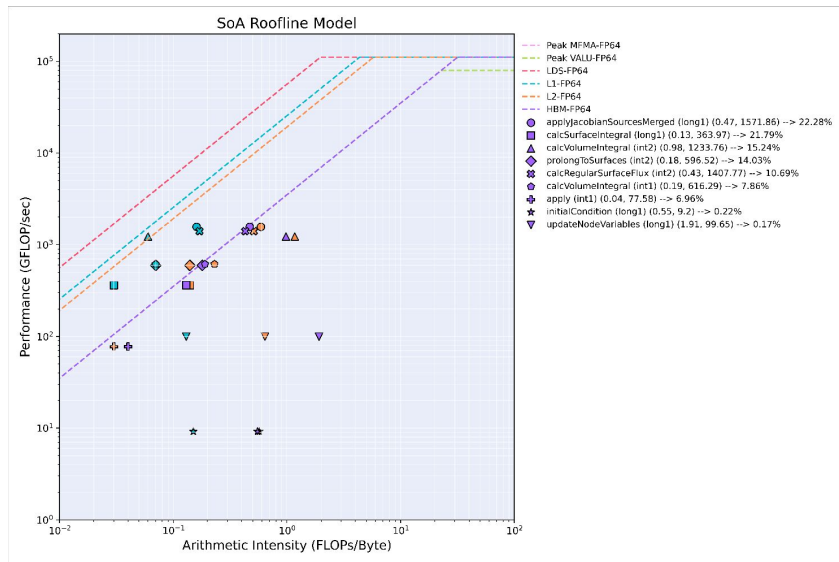
- Looping over nodes
- Fusion of some compute kernels



m-AIA Discontinuous Galerkin Method

Optimization B

- Changing from AoS to SoA memory layout
- Different memory layouts possible for higher-dimensional data arrays, independent for each data array
- Complex compute kernels with different memory access patterns per Cartesian direction
- Lowest performance: initialization kernels, BC of benchmark case



- **GPU/APU porting requires substantial effort**
- PSTL seems to be well suited for APU/GPU porting, optimal performance on Hunter may require intermediate HIP kernels (until compiler provides similar performance for PSTL)
- Further optimization of m-AIA is necessary, e.g. in initial and boundary conditions and MPI communication
- Regular meetings with HLRS and AMD specialists are and will be extremely valuable and are planned within the next months

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Thanks for your attention!

Acknowledgements:

