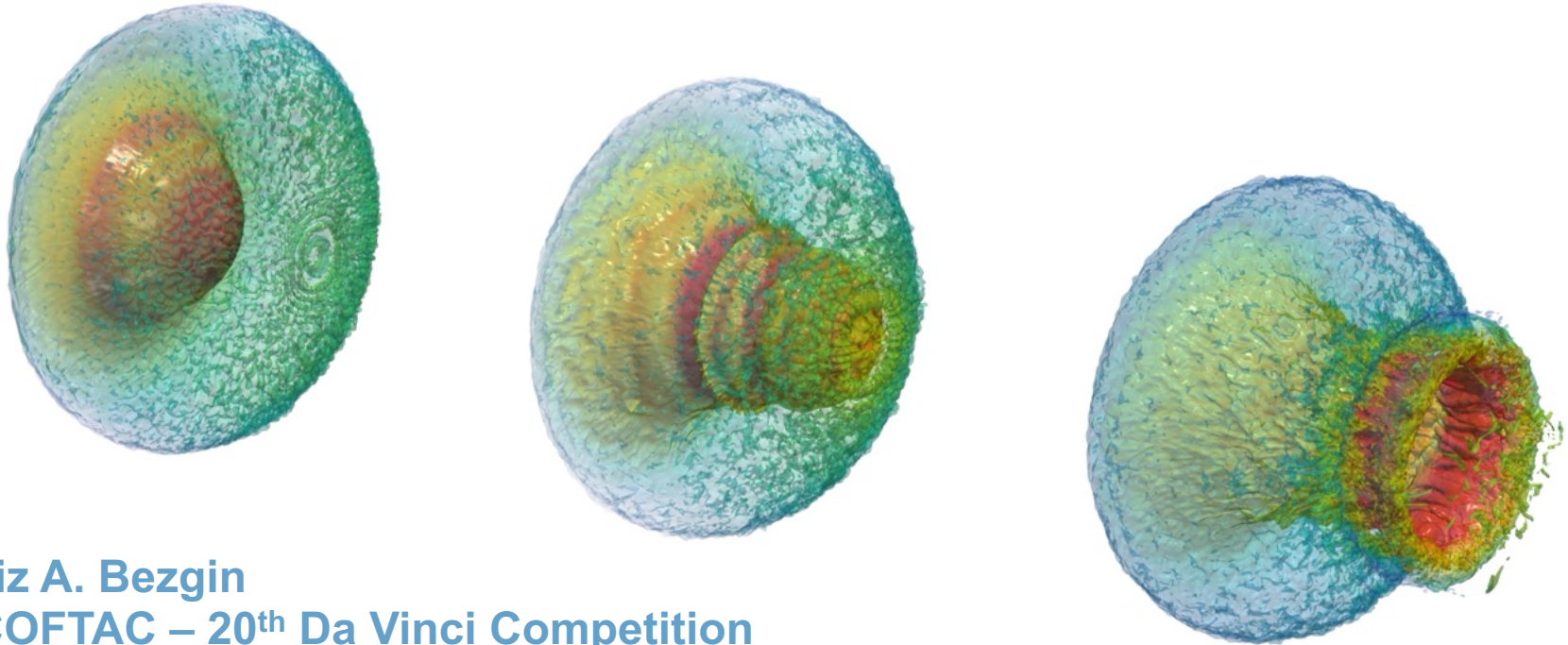
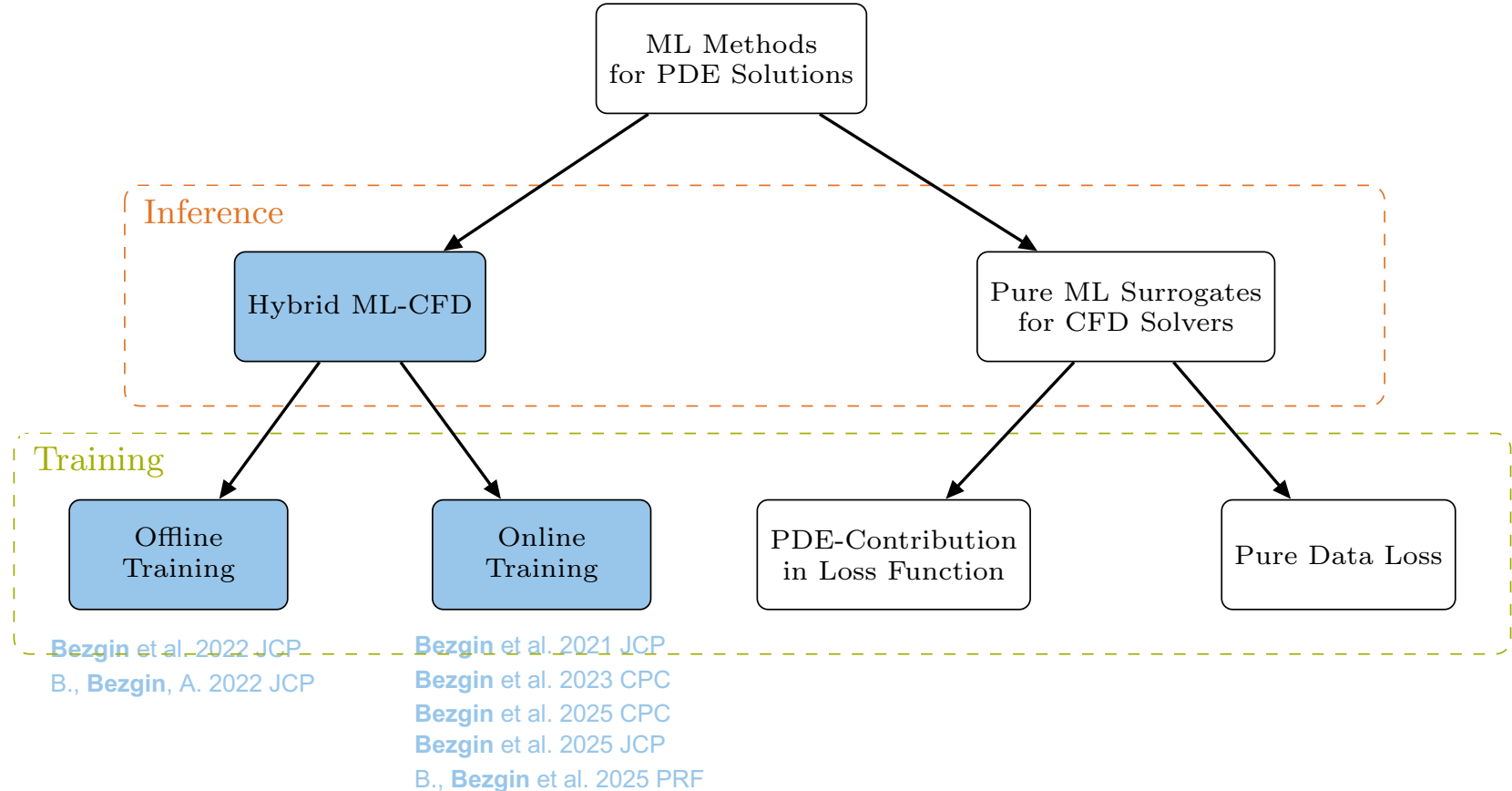


Toward Machine-learned Discretizations & Differentiable CFD for Compressible Two-phase Flows



Deniz A. Bezgin
ERCOFTAC – 20th Da Vinci Competition
October 9, 2025

ML methods for solving PDEs



Online Training of Non-linear Discretizations

Online training of non-linear discretizations

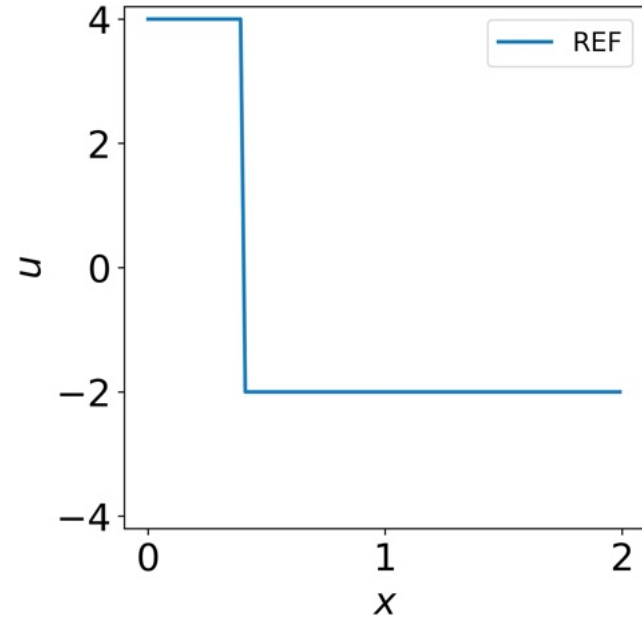
Model equation: Scalar cubic conservation law

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial u^3}{\partial x} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial u^3}{\partial x} = \epsilon \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \delta \epsilon^2 \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x^3}; \epsilon \rightarrow 0$$

Admits nonclassical (undercompressive) shocks.

Conventional schemes fail to capture nonclassical shocks due to a **mismatch of the truncation error and the small-scale terms in the PDE**.



Can we use online training to match the truncation error of a data-driven discretization with the correct small-scale terms in the PDE?

Data-driven discretization

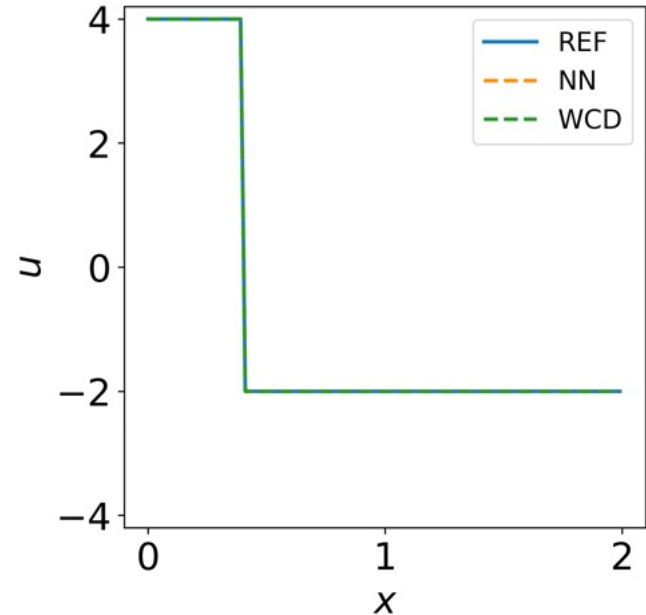
$$\tilde{F}_{N,i+1/2} = F(\tilde{u}_{i+1/2}^-) - \tilde{\delta}_{i+1/2}^{\text{NN}} (c\Delta x)^2 u_{xx}(x_{i+1/2})$$

$$\tilde{u}_{i+1/2}^- = \sum_{k=1}^3 \sum_{r=0}^{k-1} \omega_{k,r}^{-,\text{NN}} p_{k,r}^-$$

$$u_{xx}(x_{i+1/2}) = \frac{\bar{u}_{i-1} - \bar{u}_i - \bar{u}_{i+1} + \bar{u}_{i+2}}{2\Delta x^2}$$

Training

- Online training (end-to-end optimization) using an **automatically differentiable 1D solver**
- Analytical solutions of Riemann problems
- Training horizon: $n_{\text{int}} = 7$ integration steps



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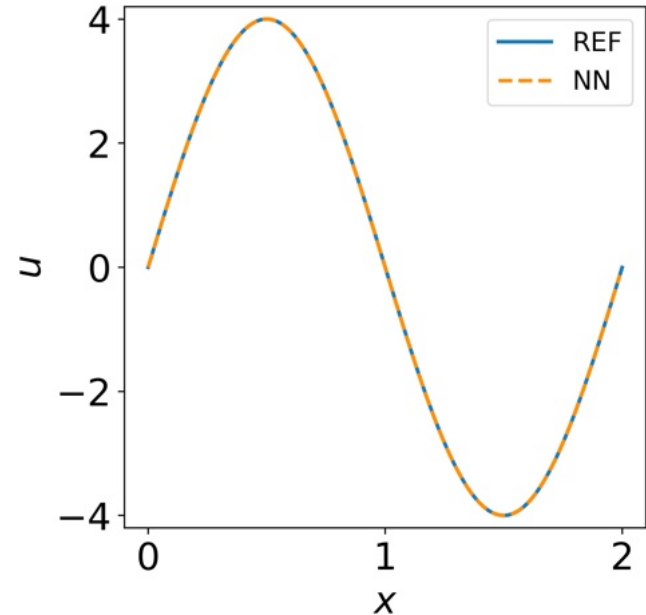
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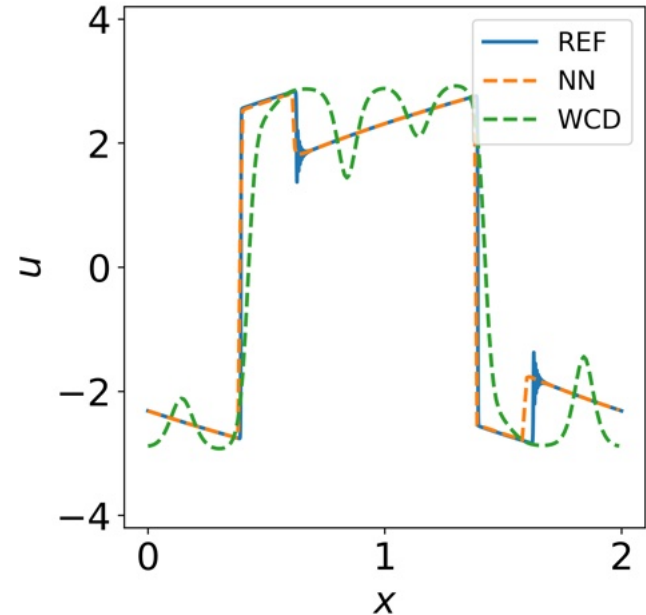
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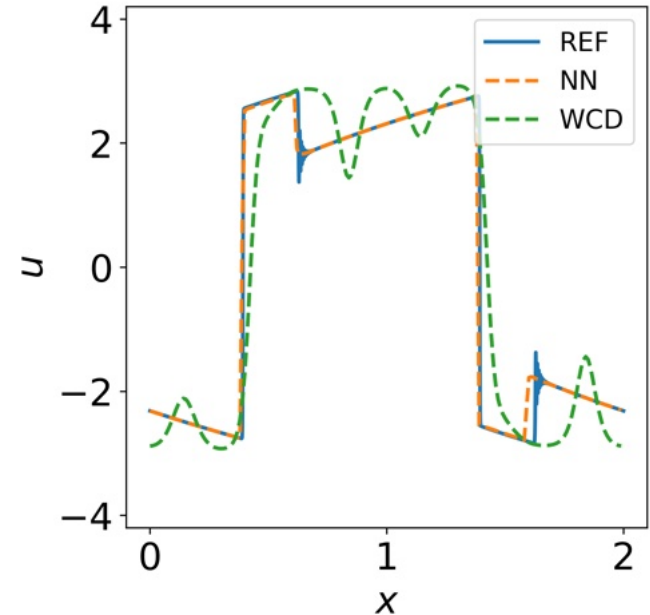


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Online Training

- Neural network model observes PDE dynamics
- Discretized PDE → **Inductive bias**
- Generalization to out-of-sample configurations
- Longer training horizon generally enhance stability

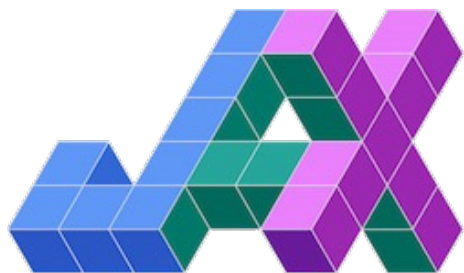
→ **Fully-differentiable CFD solver for compressible single- & two-phase flows!**



JAX-Fluids: Differentiable CFD for Compressible Single- and Two-phase Flows

JAX-Fluids: Differentiable CFD for Compressible Flows

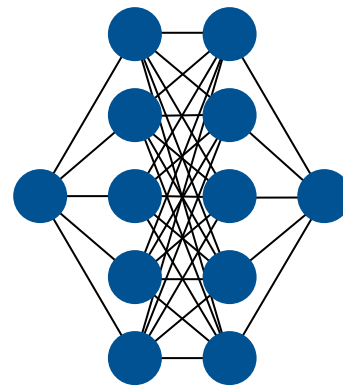
High-level language for
rapid prototyping & seamless
integration with **ML pipelines**



HPC capability → runs on
different XLA accelerators
out of the box



**Automatic differentiation
gradients** for the solution
of **inverse problems**

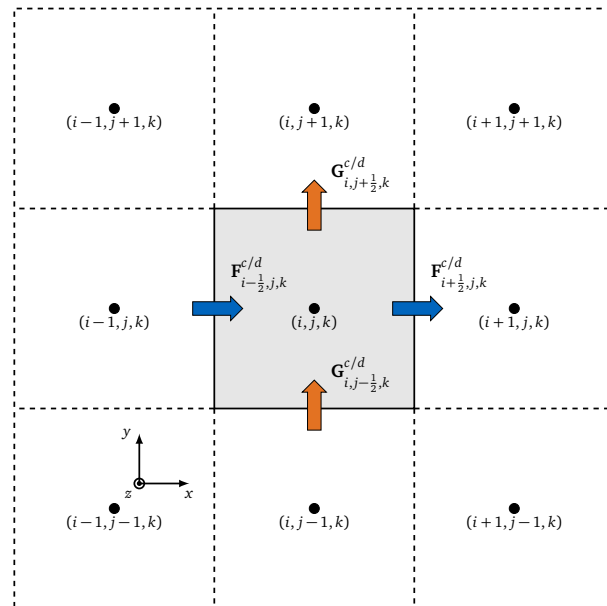


$$\partial \mathcal{L} / \partial \theta$$

JAX-Fluids is a Finite-Volume Solver

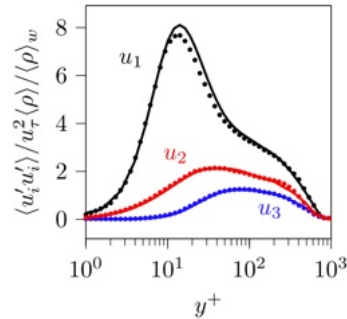
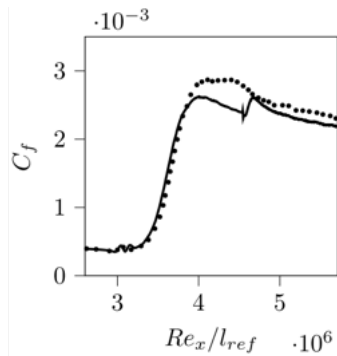
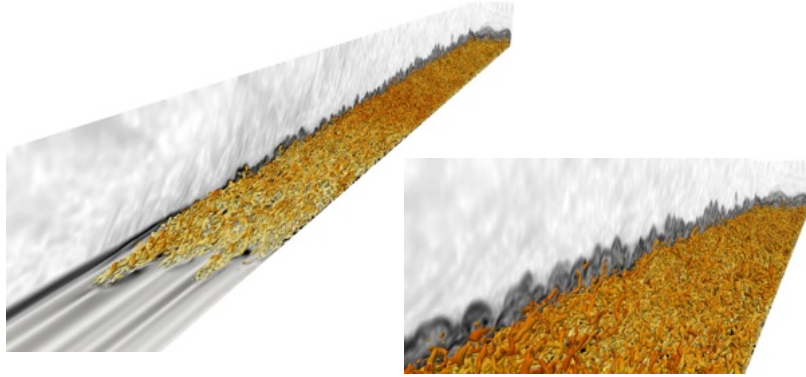
- High-order Godunov-type **finite-volume solver**
- WENO/TENO **shock-capturing** + Approximate Riemann solvers
- Cartesian meshes + Cut-cell based **Immersed boundary method**
- Two-phase models: Sharp interface **level-set model** & five-equation **diffuse-interface model**
- **JAX-based parallelization** → computation of automatic differentiation gradients across GPUs

$$\partial_t \bar{U}_{i,j} = -\frac{1}{\Delta x} \left[\left(F_{i+1/2,j}^c - F_{i+1/2,j}^d \right) - \left(F_{i-1/2,j}^c - F_{i-1/2,j}^d \right) \right] - \frac{1}{\Delta y} \left[\left(G_{i,j+1/2}^c - G_{i,j+1/2}^d \right) - \left(G_{i,j-1/2}^c - G_{i,j-1/2}^d \right) \right] + \bar{S}_{i,j}$$

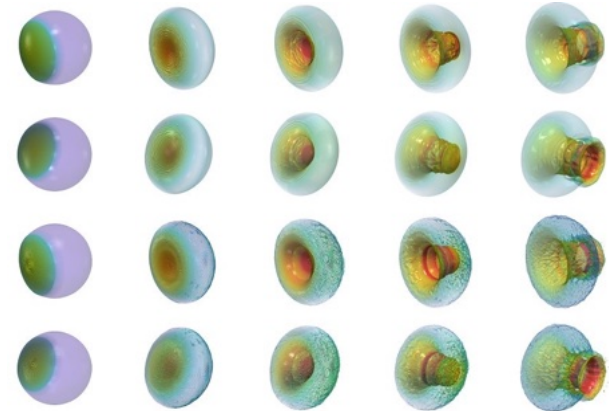
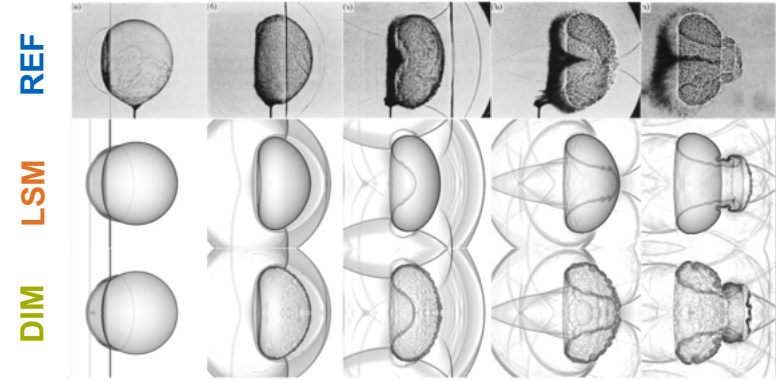


Verification on Canonical Single- & Two-phase Flows

Compressible boundary layer [Pirozoli POF 2004](#)

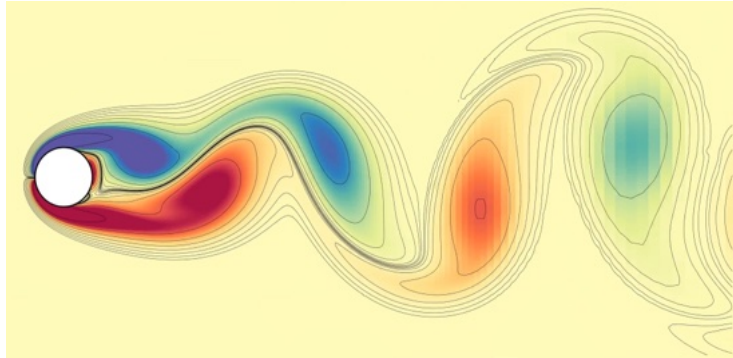


Air-helium shock bubble [Haas et al. JFM 1987](#)



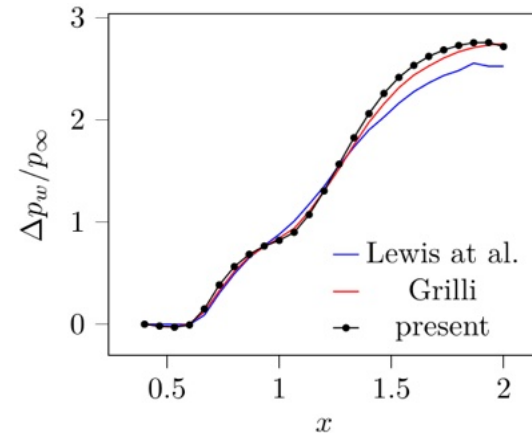
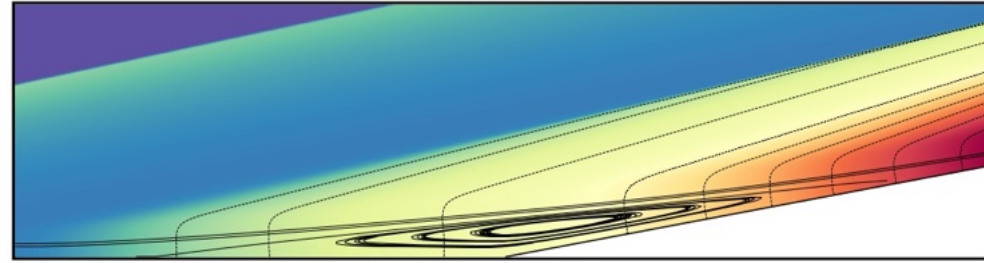
Verification of the Immersed Boundary Method

Laminar flow around a cylinder at $Re = 100$

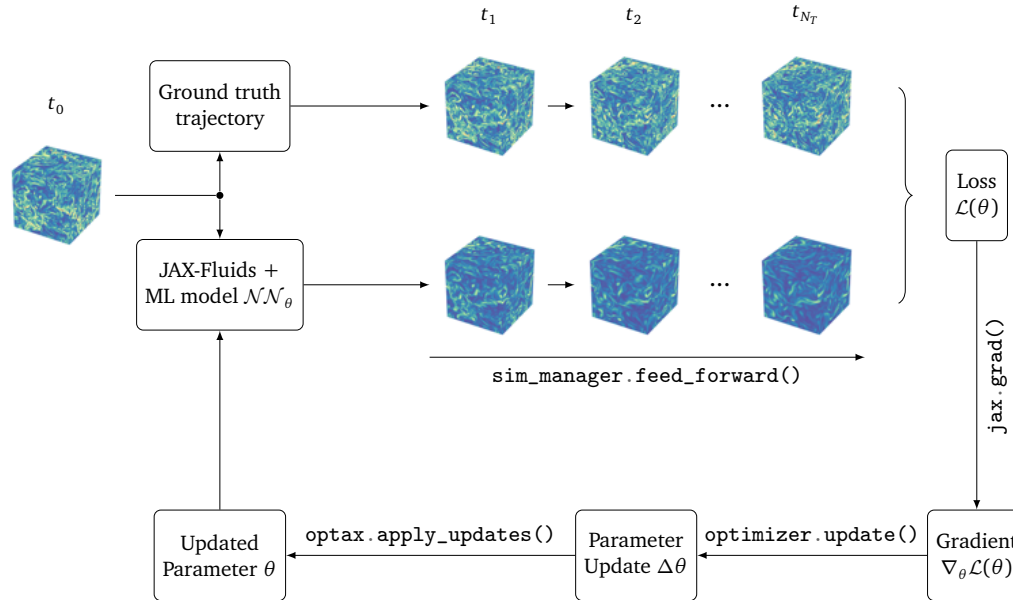


	St	$\overline{C}_D$	C_L^{max}
Linnick et al. [12]	0.166	1.34	0.33
Vanna et al. [9]	0.160	1.32	0.22
Grilli [5]	0.166	1.38	0.33
Meyer et al. [2]	0.165	1.26	0.34
present	0.162	1.37	0.34

Compression corner at $Mach = 6.06$



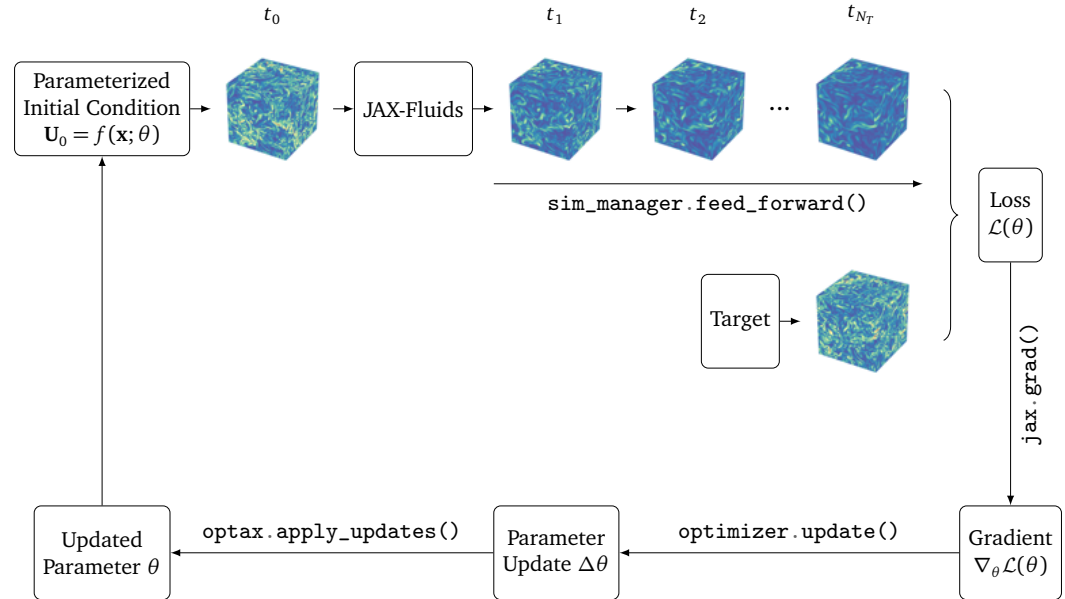
Differentiable CFD can be used for online training of numerical models & discretizations...



- Data-driven model is **embedded into the CFD solver**
- Model is **applied recursively** over the course of a simulation and is optimized **end-to-end**
- Example: Online training of a turbulence model

... but also for the solution of inverse problems

- **Parameterized initial condition** is integrated forward in time
- Loss is typically computed using observables of the spatio-temporal trajectory
- Example: Shape optimization
→ **Drag as QoI** to be minimized



Online training for Machine-learned Implicit LES

- A standard HLLC flux function is combined with a **neural network-based interface reconstruction**.

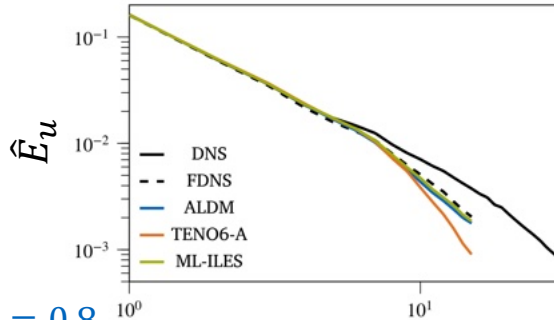
- The data-driven discretization is trained on **coarse-grained HIT data**

$$Ma_t \in \{0.4, 0.6, 0.8\},$$

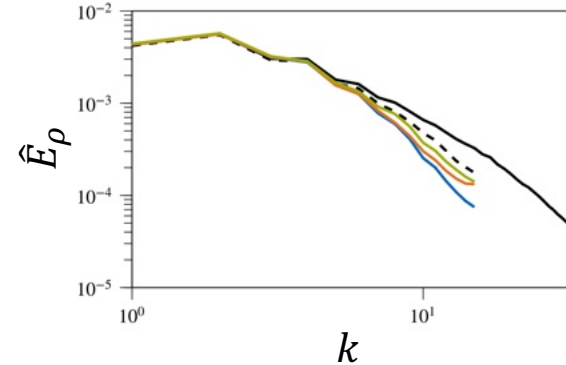
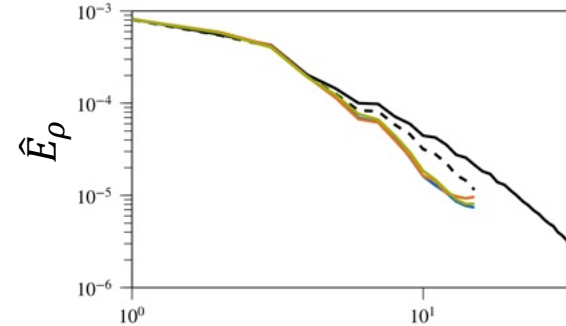
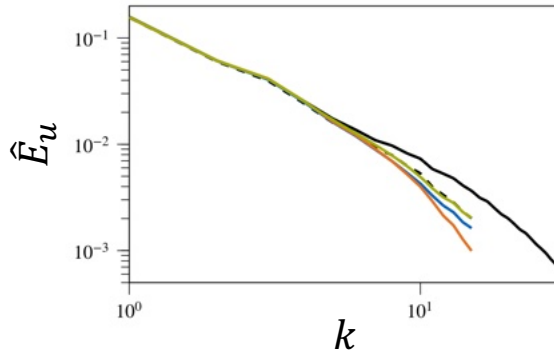
$$Re_\tau \approx 200$$

- The model is trained online using JAX-Fluids.

$Ma_t = 0.4$

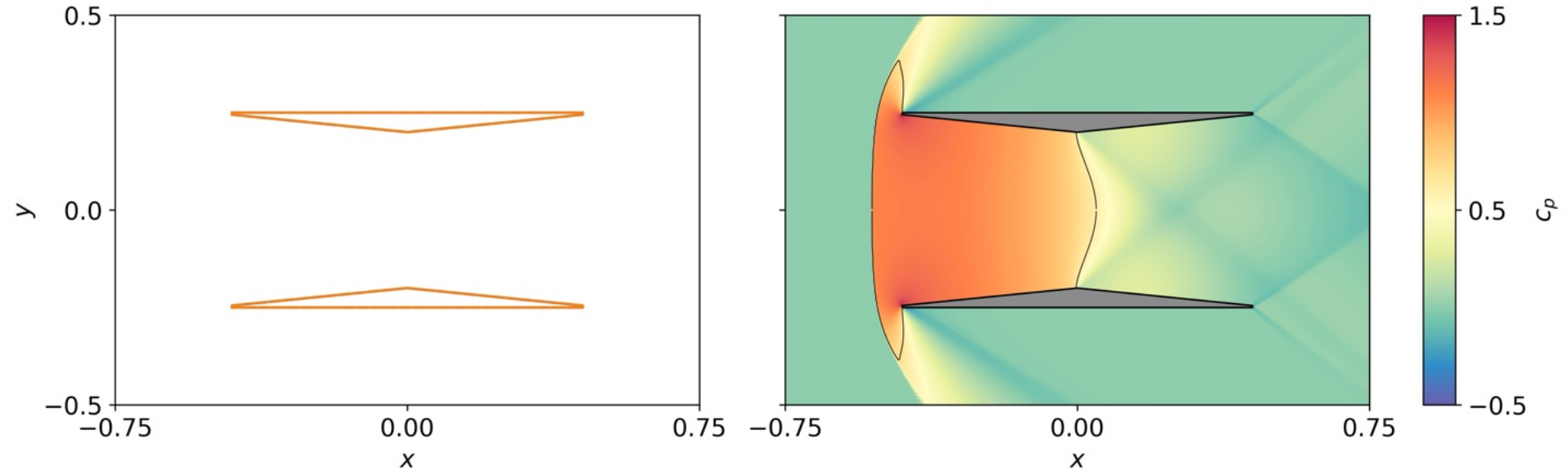


$Ma_t = 0.8$



Parametric Shape Optimization by Automatic Differentiation Adjoints

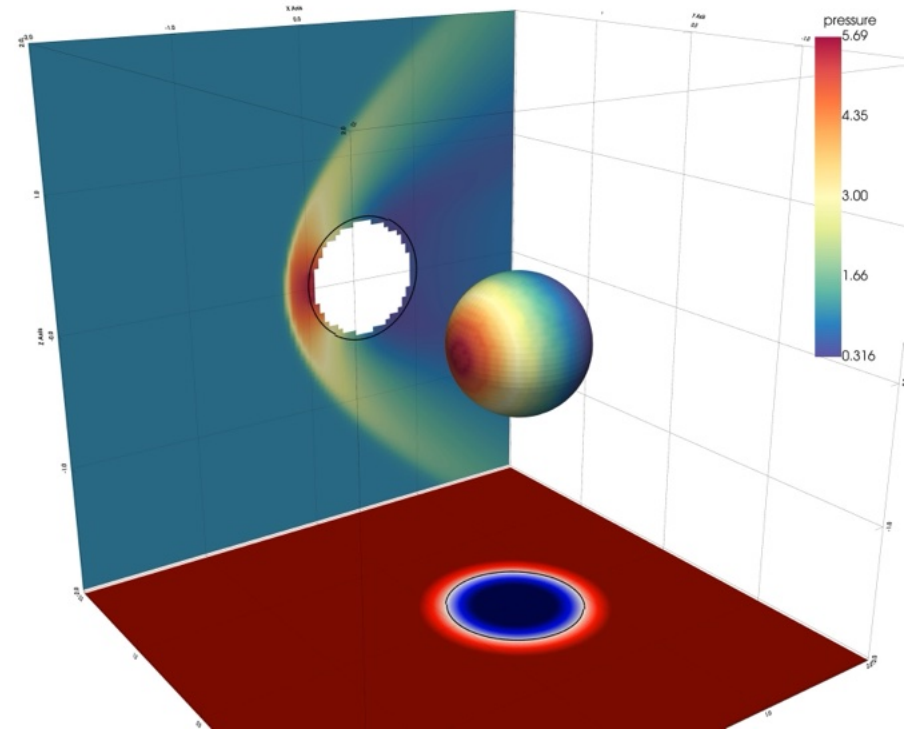
Step = 0000 – $M_\infty = 1.7$ – $c_d = 0.096$



Optimization by **black-box gradient** or **automatic differentiation Jacobians for adjoint equations**.

Free-form Shape Optimization by Automatic Differentiation Adjoints

- We want to optimize the shape of an immersed solid in **supersonic flow** in order to reduce its drag.
- QoI is the drag; but the loss takes into account the initial volume of the solid
$$\mathcal{L} = C_d + (V - V_0)^2$$



Conclusion & Outlook

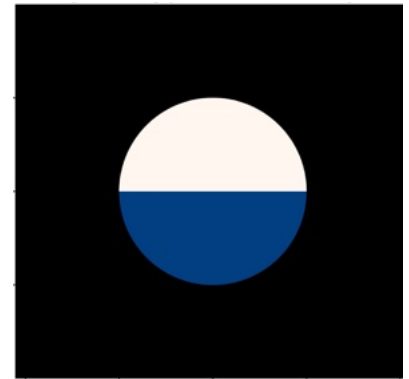
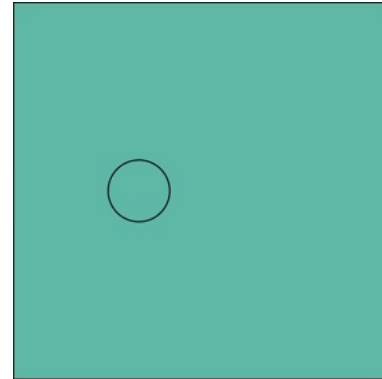
Online training

Gradients are backpropagated through the solver → Models are PDE-informed, improving generalization and long-term stability

JAX-Fluids: Differentiable CFD

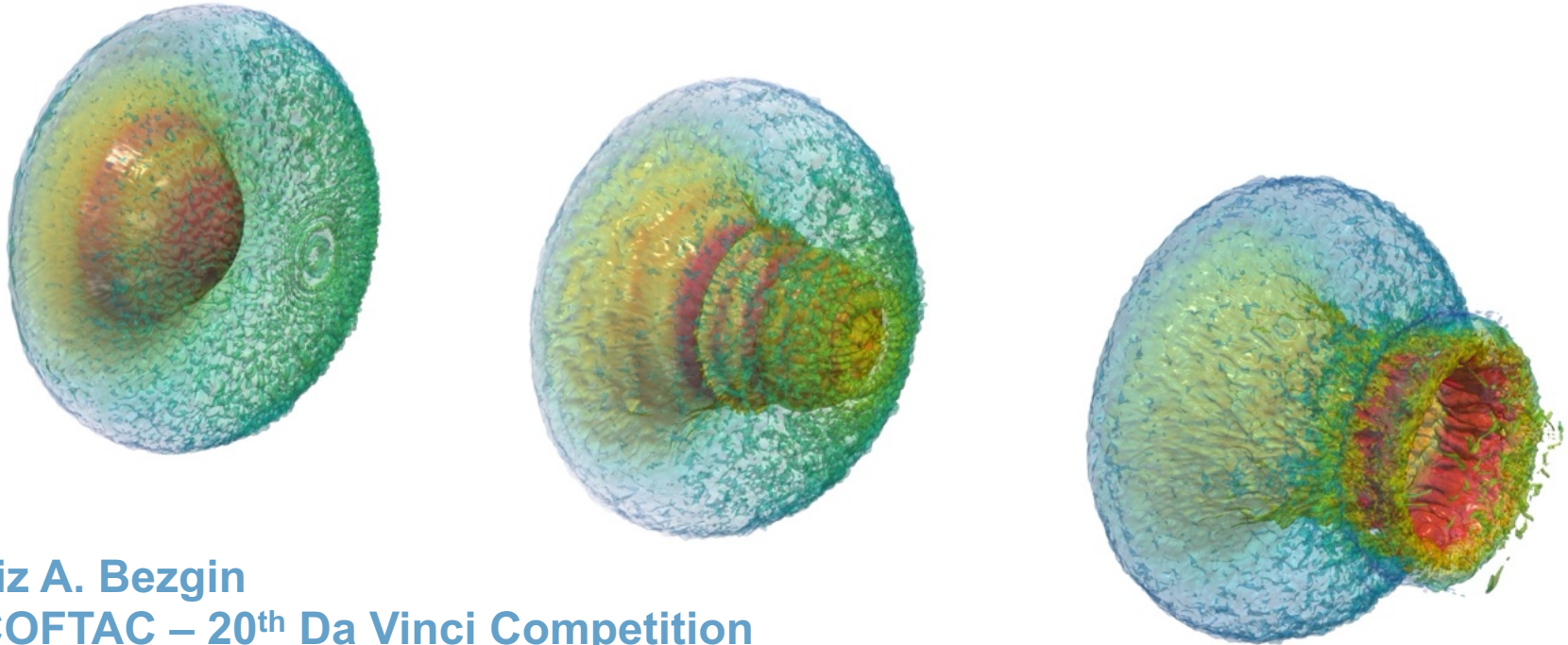
HPC-capable differentiable CFD solver for compressible single- and two-phase flows → Model training & inverse problems by AD gradients

Towards a Differentiable Multiphysics Simulator



Discretized equations are a powerful inductive bias, and differentiable CFD opens novel avenues for data-driven model development and inverse problems.

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