Co-located Partitioning Strategy and Dual-grid Multiscale Approach for Parallel Coupling of CFD-DEM Simulations

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Coupled Problems 2019
June 2019

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Outline

Background

- What is XDEM?
- CFD-DEM Coupling

CFD-DEM Parallel Coupling

- Co-located Partitioning Strategy
- Dual-grid Multiscale Approach

Results

- Results Validation
- Performance Evaluation

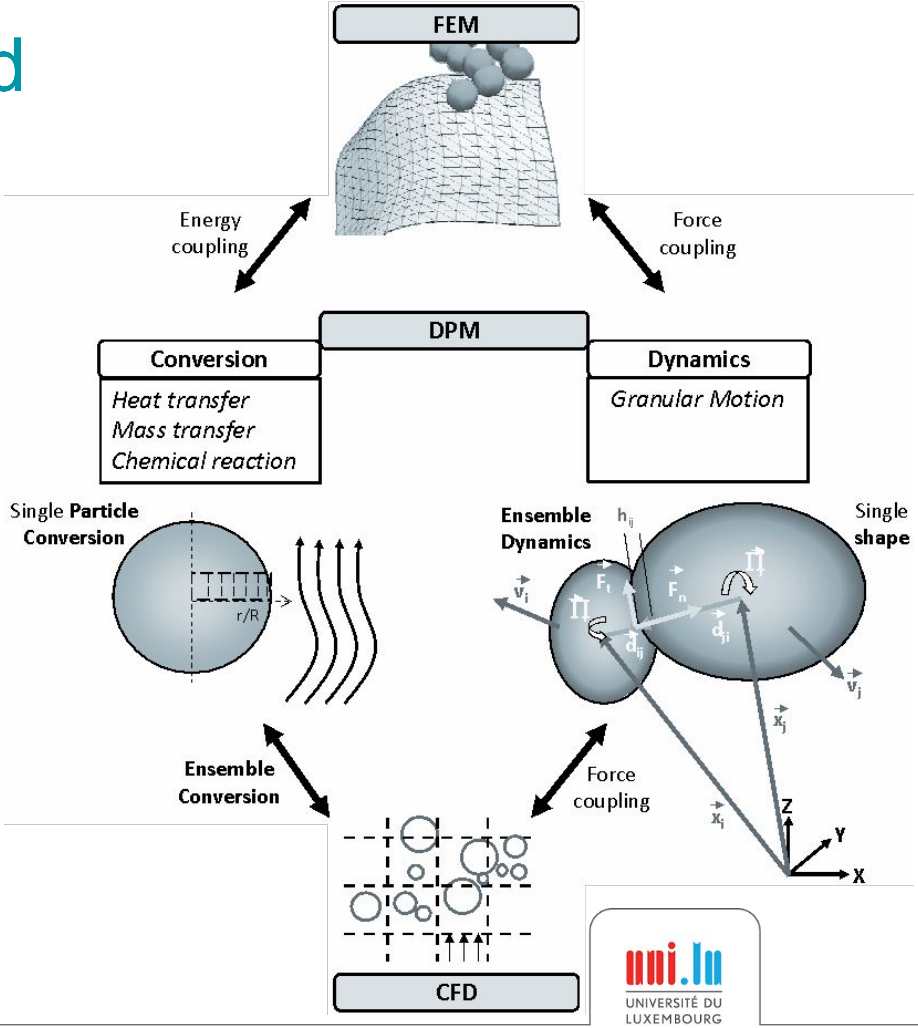
Conclusion

- Future Work

What is XDEM?

What is XDEM?

eXtended
Discrete
Element
Method



Particles Dynamics

- Force and torques
- Particle motion

Particles Conversion

- Heat and mass transfer
- Chemical reactions

Coupled with

- Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD)
- Finite Element Method (FEM)

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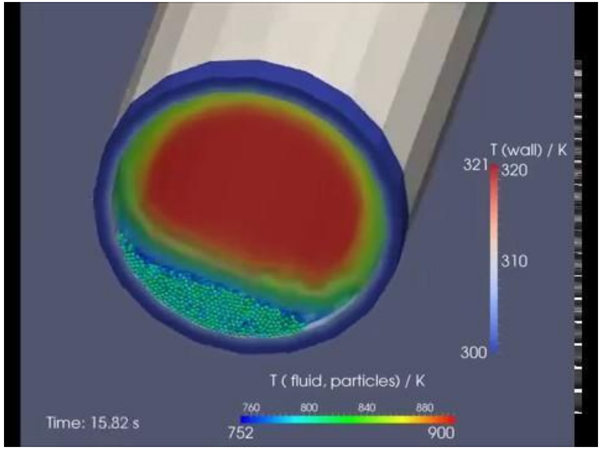
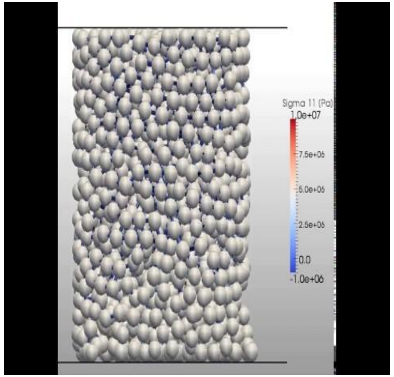
Examples



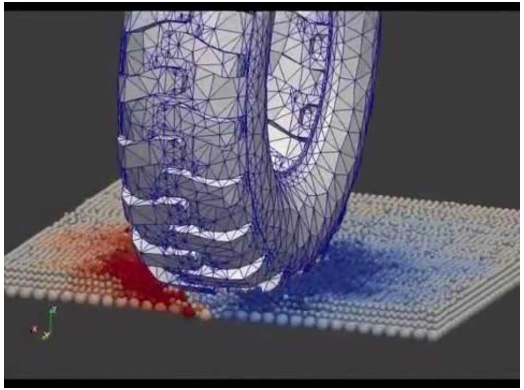
Heat transfer to the walls of a rotary furnace

Impacts on an elastic membrane

Charge/discharge of hoppers



Brittle failure



Tire rolling on snow

Fluidisation

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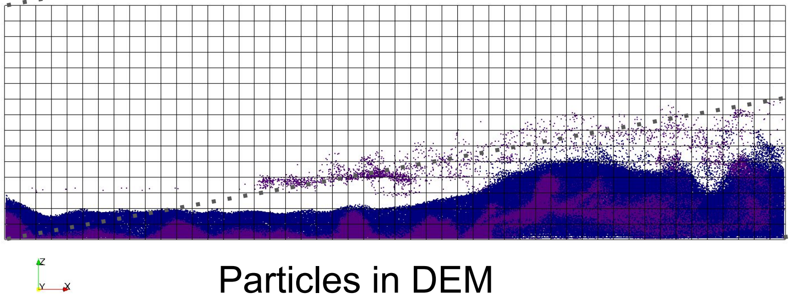
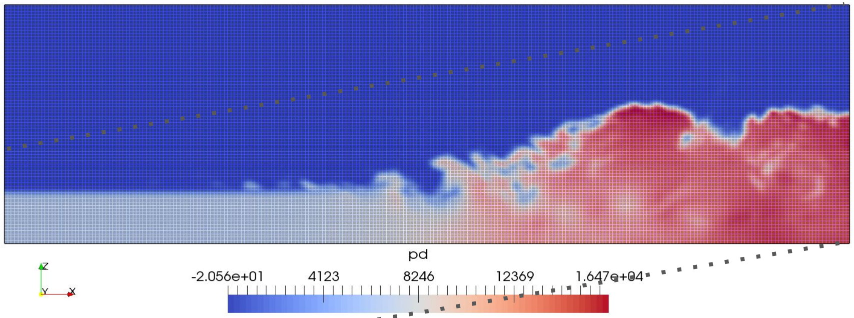
CFD-DEM Coupling

CFD-(X)DEM Coupling

Moving particles interacting with liquid and gas



Particles in DEM



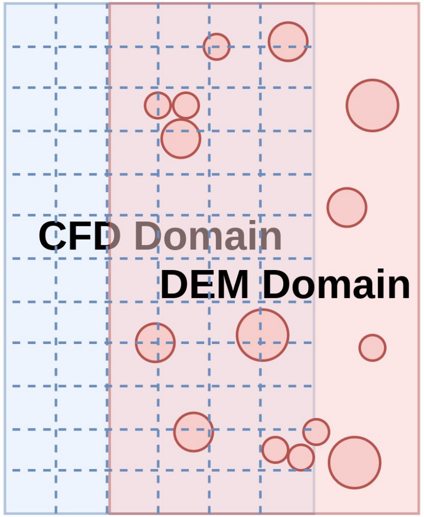
Fluid and gas in CFD

From CFD to DEM
- Lift force (buoyancy)
- Drag force

From DEM to CFD
- Porosity
- Particle source of momentum

CFD ↔ XDEM
- Heat transfer
- Mass transfer

CFD-DEM Parallel Coupling: Challenges

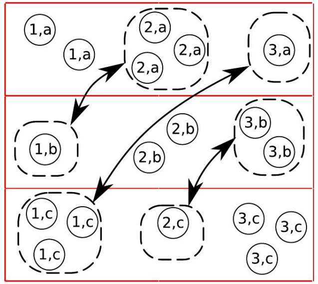


Challenges in CFD-XDEM parallel coupling

- Combine different independent software
- Large volume of data to exchange
- Different distribution of the computation and of the data
- DEM data distribution is dynamic

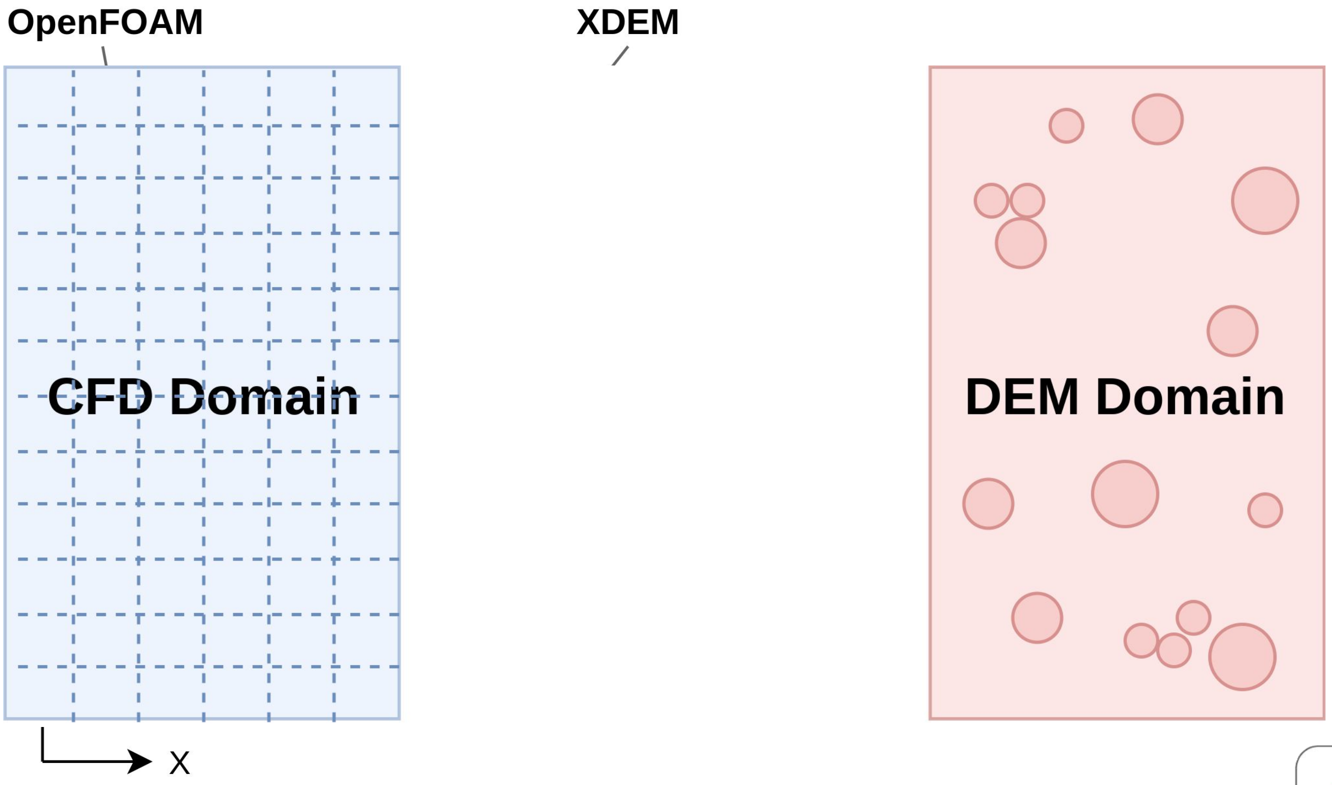
Classical Approaches

- Each software partitions its domain independently
- Data exchange in a peer-to-peer model



SediFoam [Sun2016]

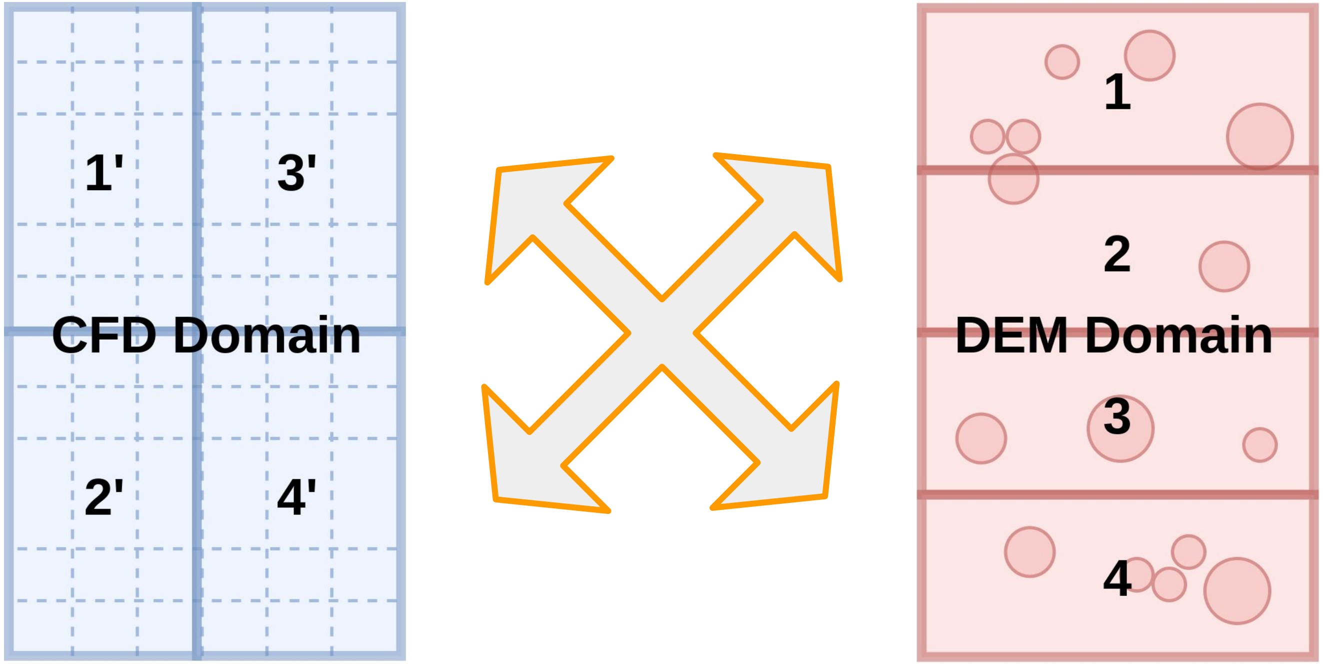
CFD-DEM Parallel Coupling: Challenges



The domains overlap in space

CFD-DEM Parallel Coupling: Challenges

Classical Approach: the domains are partitioned independently

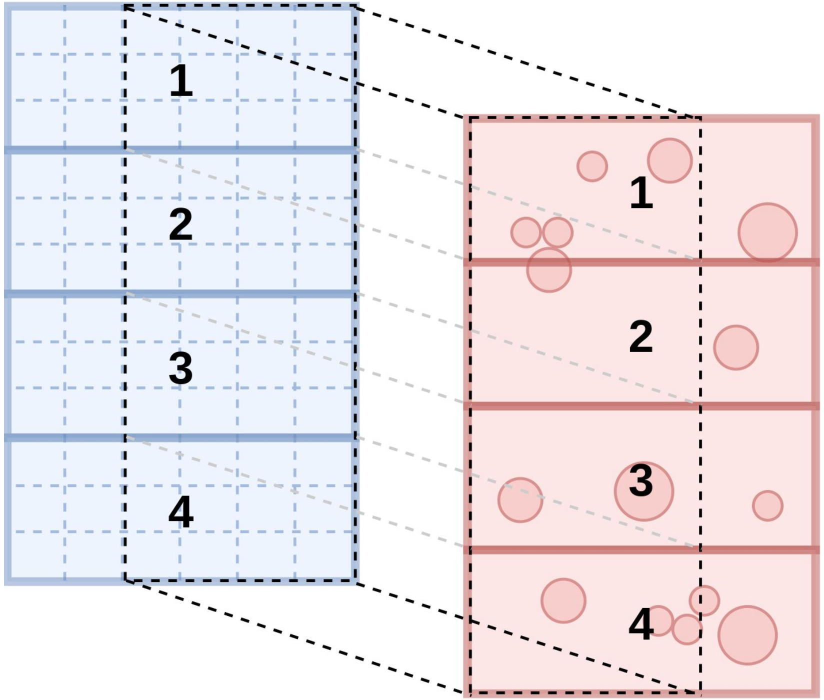


Complex pattern and large volume of communication

Co-located Partitioning Strategy

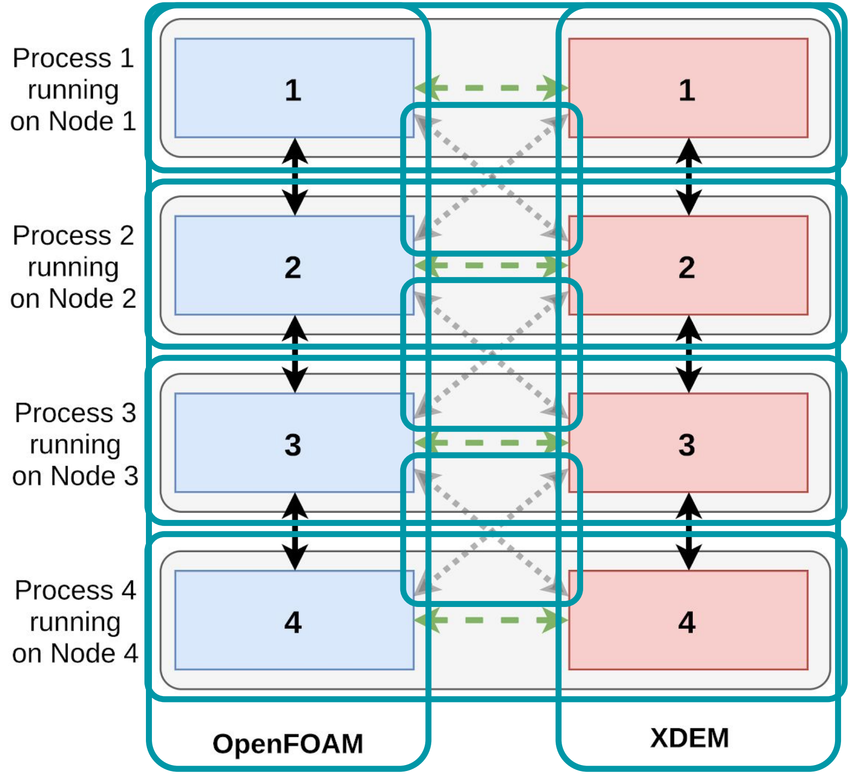
A co-located partitions strategy for parallel CFD–DEM couplings
G. Pozzetti, X. Besseron, A. Rousset and B. Peters
Journal of Advanced Powder Technology, December 2018
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apt.2018.08.025

Co-located Partitioning Strategy



Domain elements co-located in domain space are assigned to the same partition

Co-located Partitioning Strategy: communication



Intra-physics Data Exchange

Inter-partition intra-physics Data Exchange using MPI communication layer
with native implementation in OpenFOAM and XDEM

Inter-physics Data Exchange

Inter-partition inter-physics Data Exchange using MPI communication layer
reduced to minimum or non-existing due to partition co-location

Intra-partition inter-physics Data Exchange using direct library function calls
fast because it is a direct intra-process memory access

With a direct implementation in each software
if the two partitions are perfectly aligned,

Dual-Grid Multiscale Approach

A multiscale DEM-VOF method for the simulation of three-phase flows

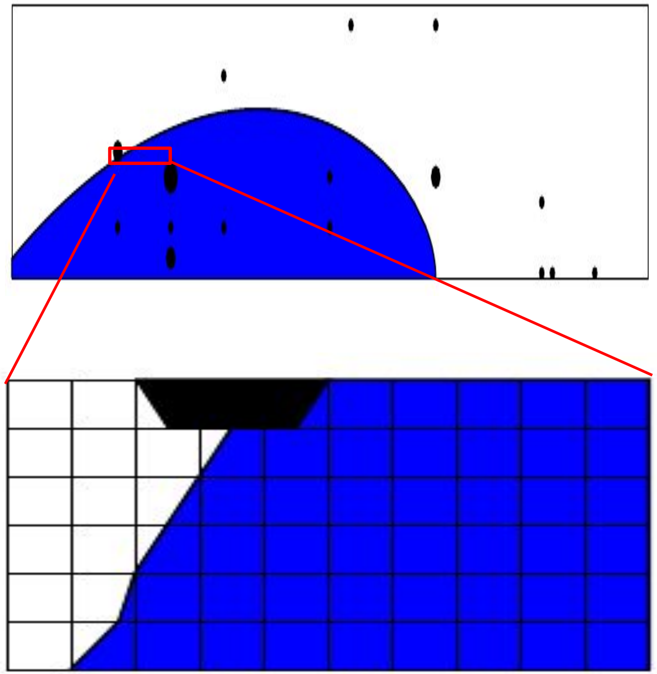
G. Pozzetti and B. Peters

International Journal of Multiphase Flow, February 2018

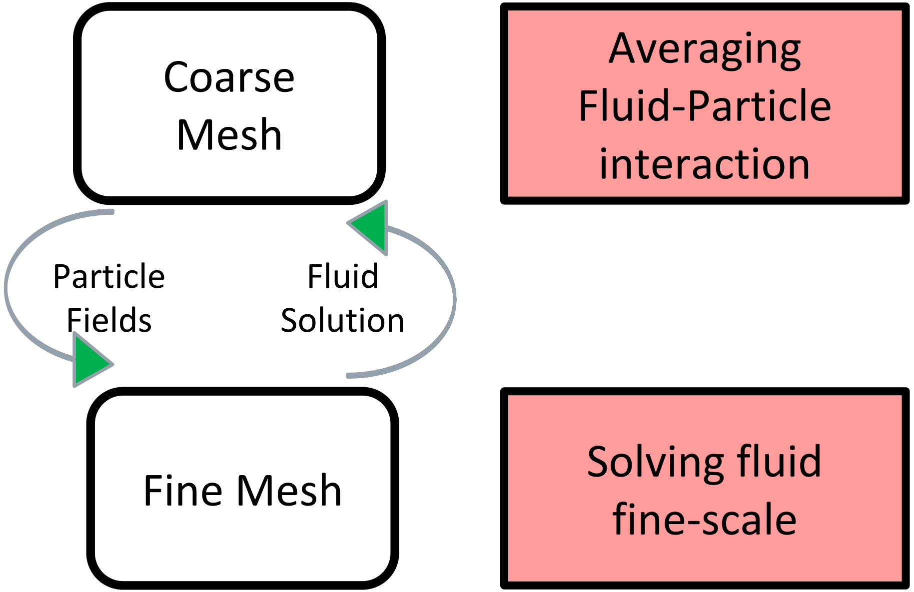
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijmultiphaseflow.2017.10.008

Advantages of the dual-grid multiscale

Bulk coupling scale



Fluid fine scale

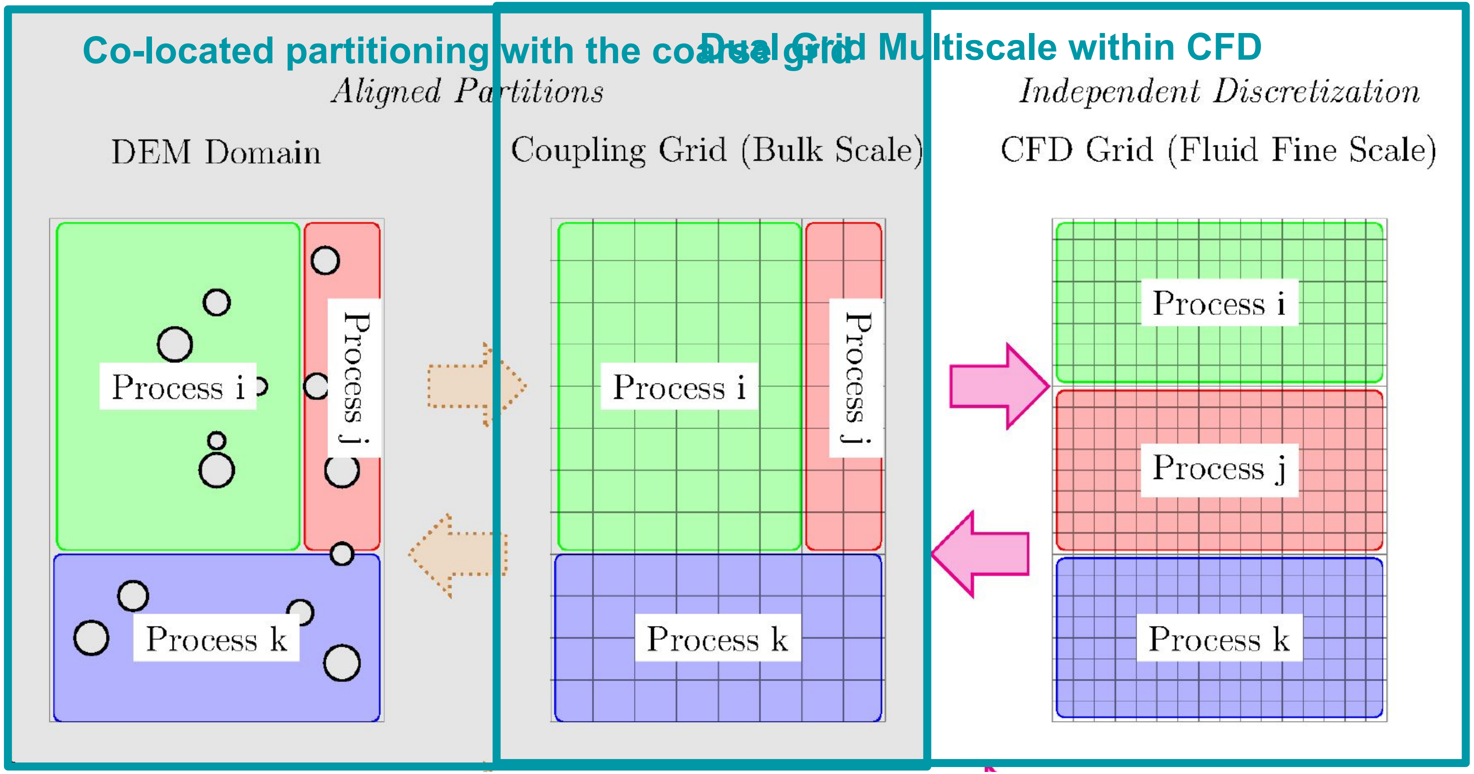


- **Keeping advantages of volume-averaged CFD-DEM**
- **Restoring grid-convergence of the CFD solution**

Co-located Partitioning Strategy
+
Dual-Grid Multiscale Approach

A parallel dual-grid multiscale approach to CFD–DEM couplings
G. Pozzetti, H. Jasak, X. Besseron, A. Rousset and B. Peters
Journal of Computational Physics, February 2019
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcp.2018.11.030

Dual grid and co-located partitioning



- No constraint on the partitioning of the fine mesh ⇒ better load-balancing for CFD
- Coarse mesh can be perfectly aligned with XDEM ⇒ no inter-partition inter-physics communication

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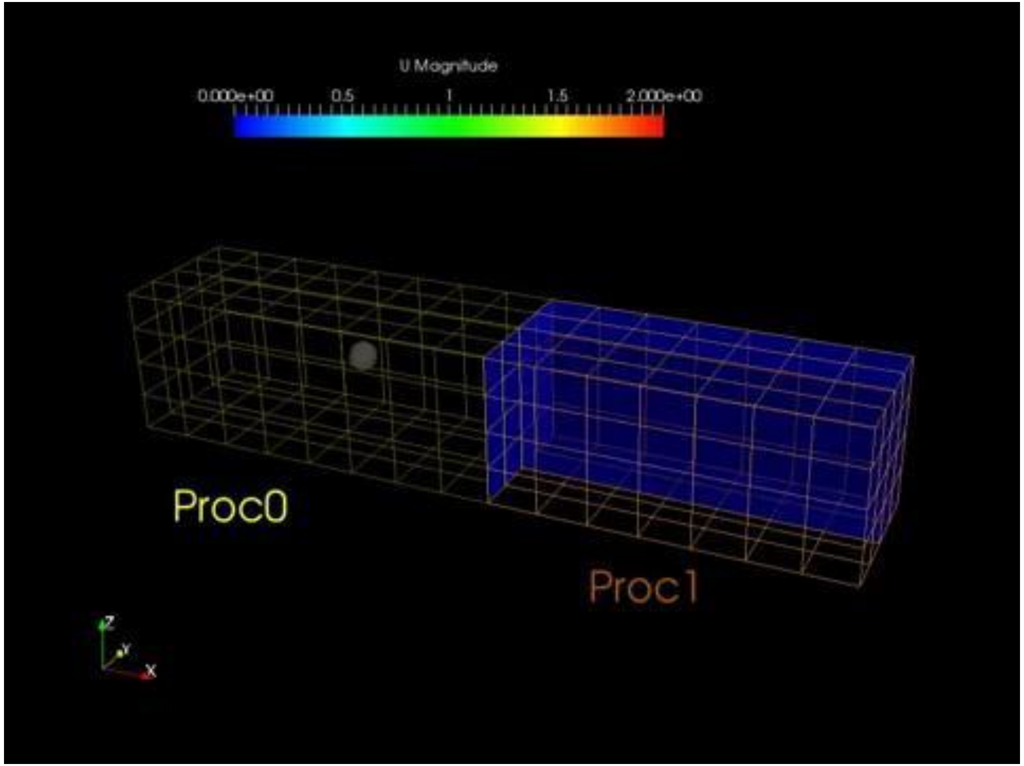
Validation of the Results

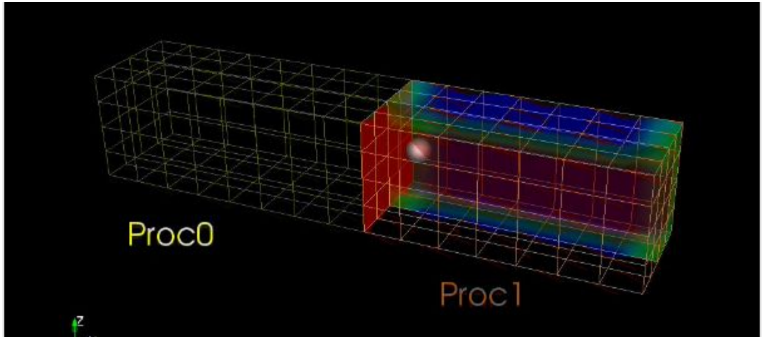
One particle crossing process boundaries

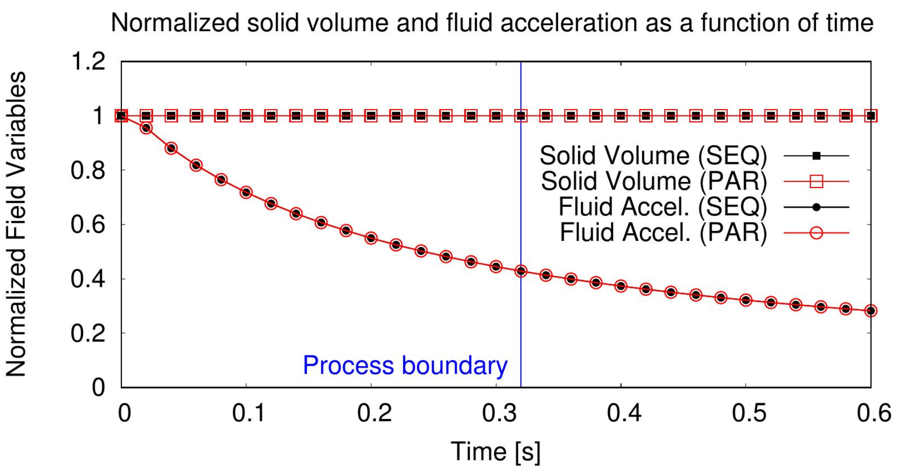


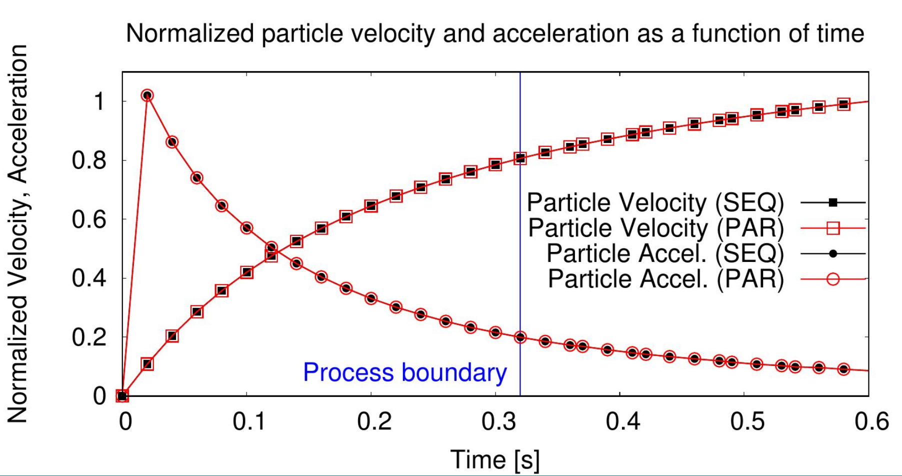
Setup

- one particle
- accelerated by the fluid
- moving from one process to another

One particle crossing process boundaries



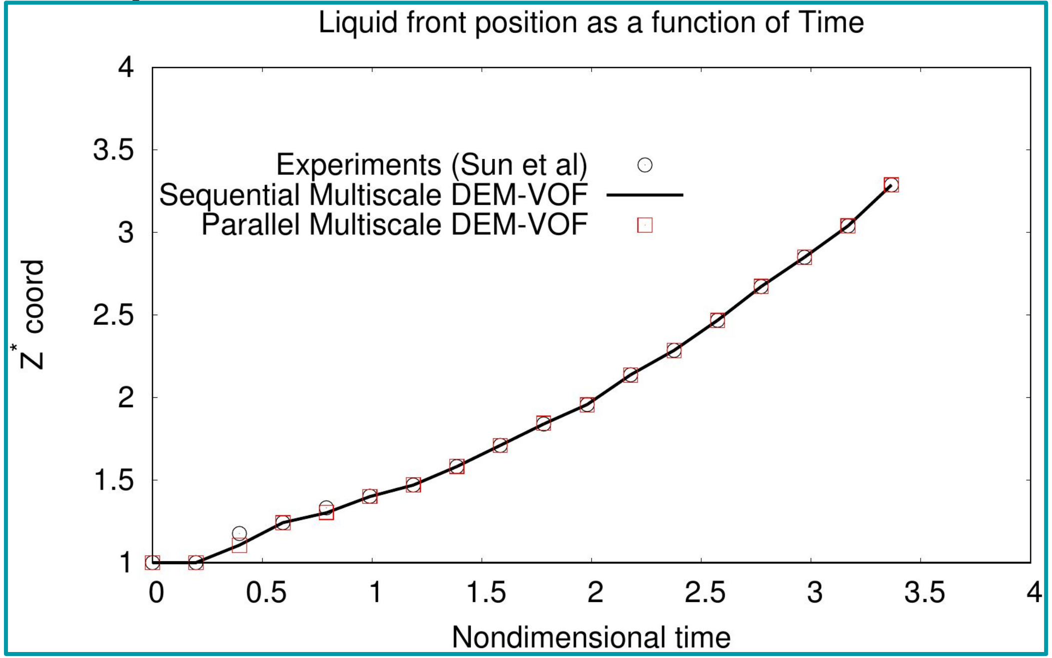


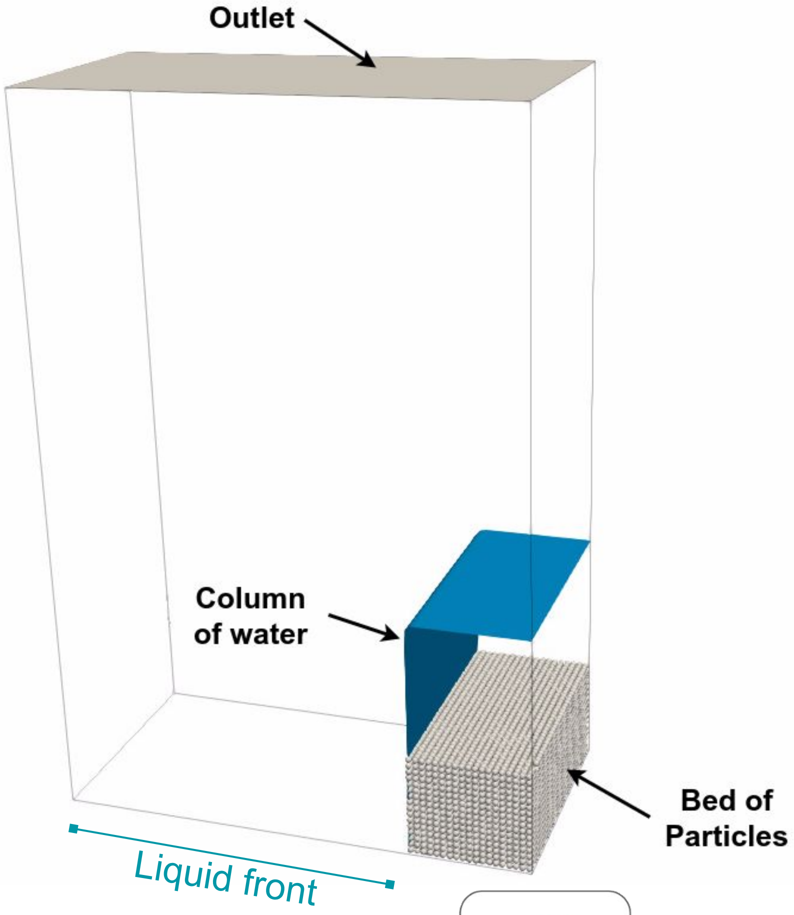


Results

- drag force & particle velocity are continuous
- Identical between sequential and parallel execution

Liquid Front in a Dam Break





Results

- position of the liquid front
- identical between sequential and parallel
- identical with experimental data

Performance Evaluation

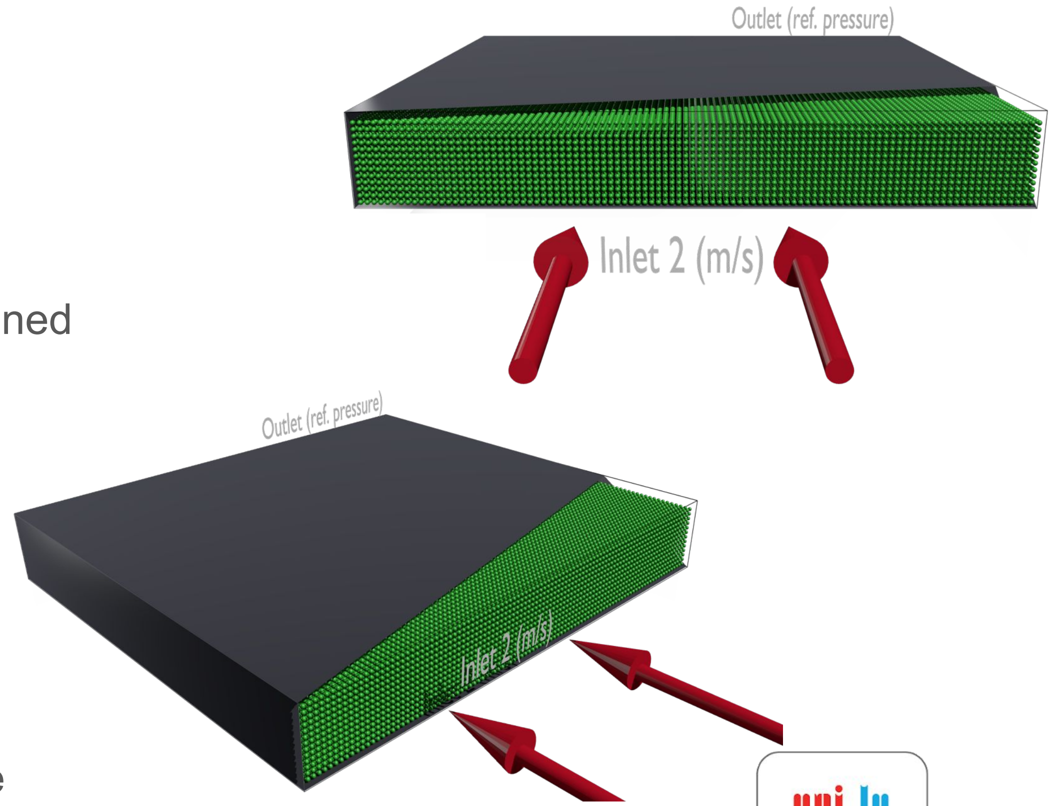
Scalability results (co-located only)

Setup

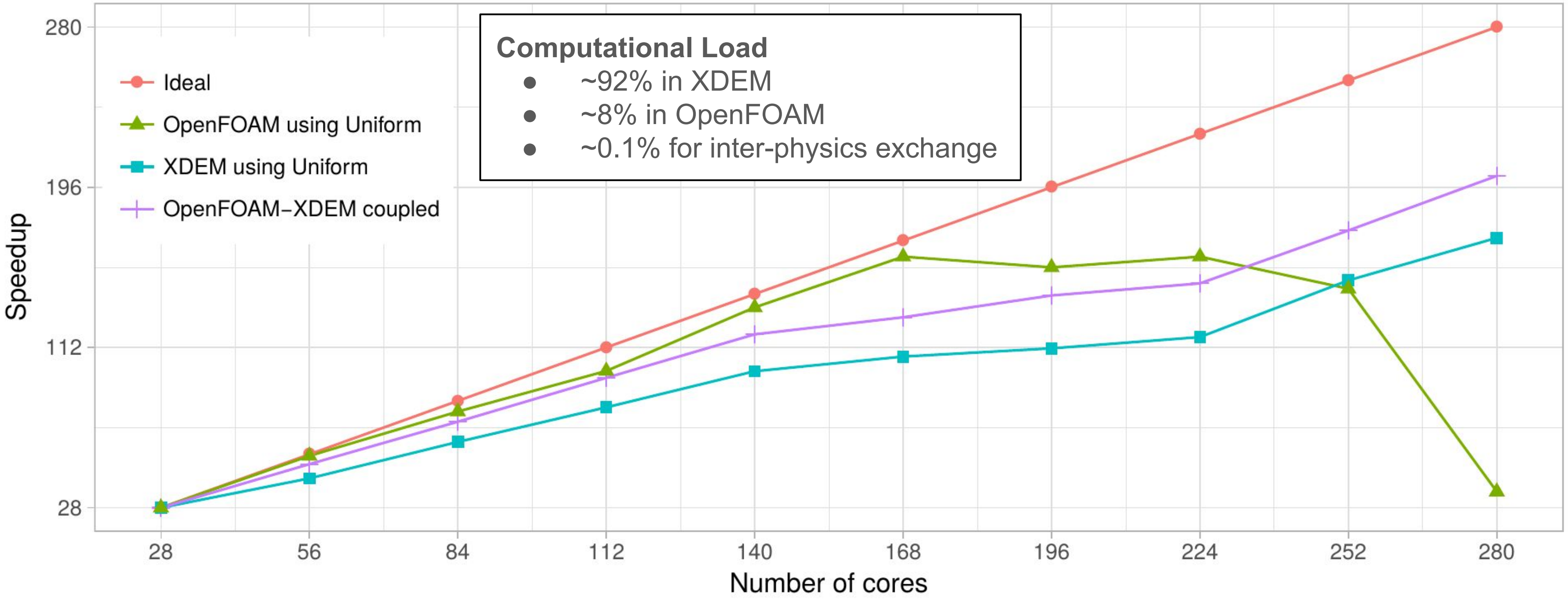
- 10 million particles
- 1 million CFD cells
- CFD mesh and DEM grid are aligned
- Uniform distribution
- From 1 to 10 nodes

Computation Load

- ~92% in XDEM
- ~8% in OpenFOAM
- ~0.1% for inter-physics exchange



Scalability results (co-located only)



- OpenFOAM is underloaded (< 3600 CFD cells per process)
- Coupled execution follows the behavior of the dominant part

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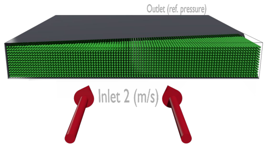
Weak Scalability / Communication Overhead

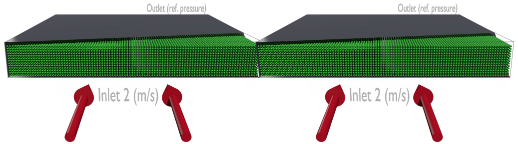
Setup

- ~4464 particles per process
- ~4464 CFD cells per process
- Co-located partitions + Dual Grid
- Uniform distribution
- 10, 20 and 40 nodes

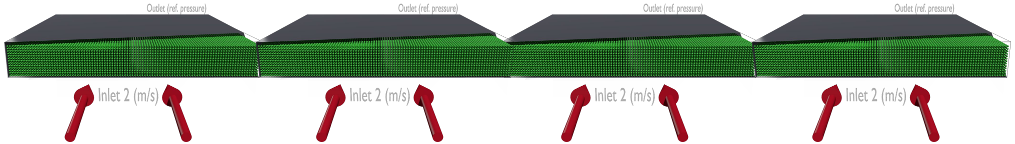
On 10 nodes



On 20 nodes



On 40 nodes



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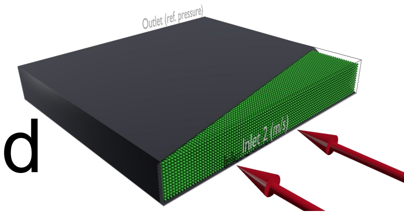
Weak Scalability / Communication Overhead



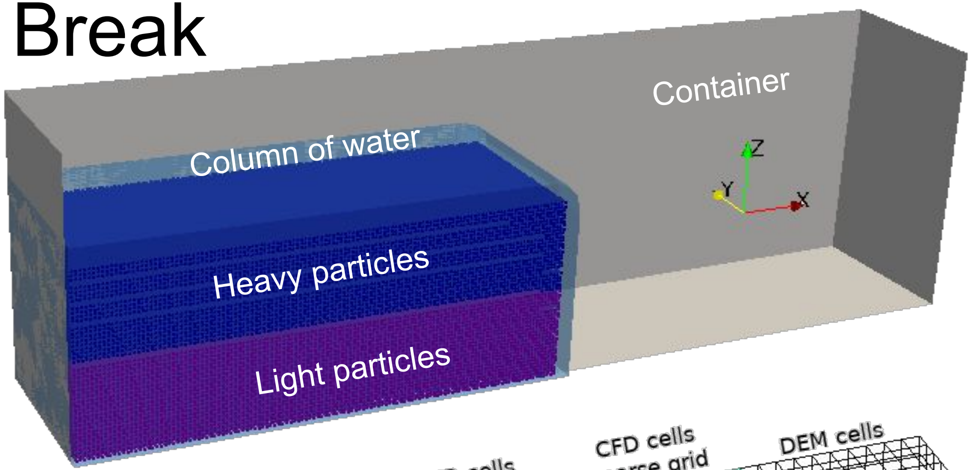
#nodes	#cores #processes	Total #particles	Total #CFD cells	Average Timestep	Overhead	Inter-Physics Exchange
10	280	2.5M	2.5M	1.612 s	-	0.7 ms
20	560	5M	5M	1.618 s	1%	0.6 ms
40	1120	10M	10M	1.650 s	2.3%	0.6 ms

Other CFD-DEM solutions from literature (on similar configurations)

- **MFIX:** +160% overhead from 64 to 256 processes [Gopalakrishnan2013]
- **SediFoam:** +50% overhead from 128 to 512 processes [Sun2016]

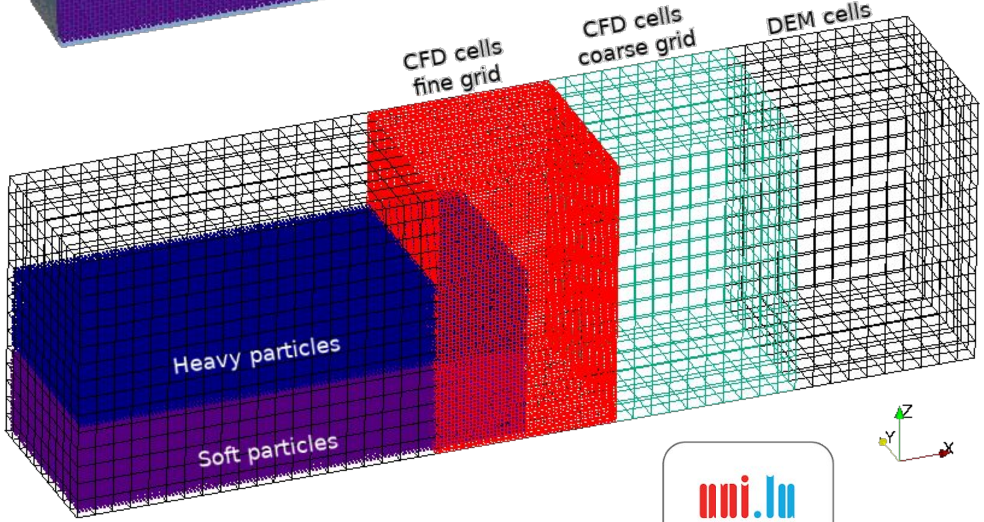
→ due to large increase of process-to-process communication

Realistic Testcase: Dam Break



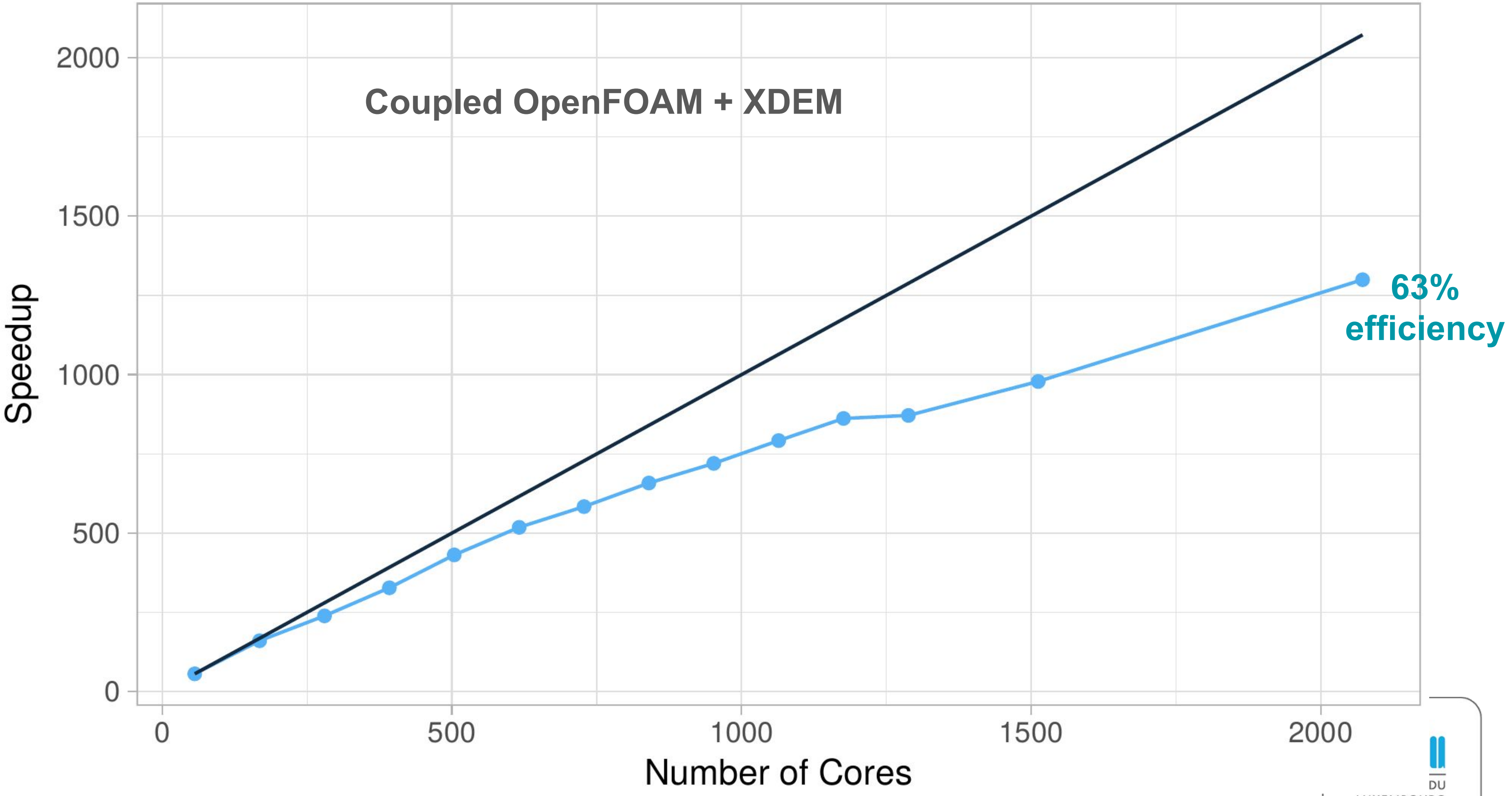
Setup

- 2.35M particles
- 10M CFD cells in the fine grid
- 500k CFD cells in the coarse grid
- Co-located partitions + Dual Grid
- Non-uniform distribution

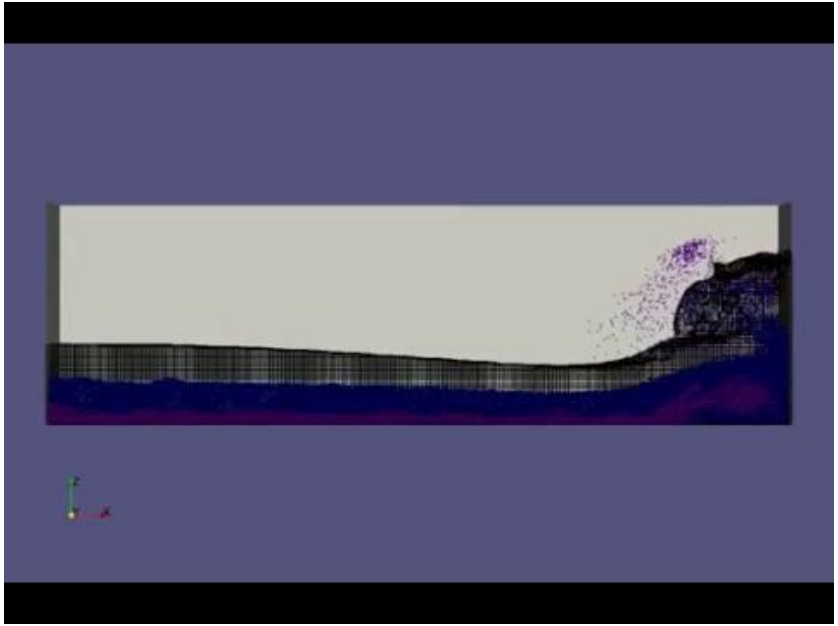


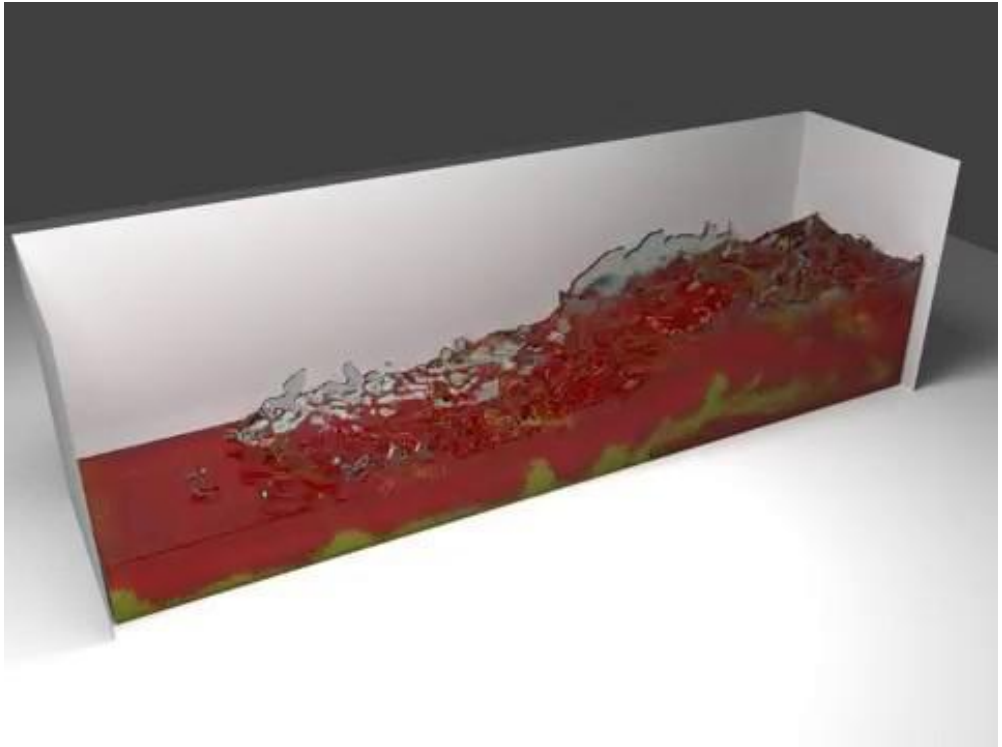
Running scalability test from 4 to 78 nodes

Dam Break scalability (preliminary results)



Realistic Testcase: Dam Break





Conclusion

Summary: Parallel Coupling of CFD-DEM Simulations

Leveraging 2 ideas

- Co-located partitioning [1]
  - Reduce the volume of communication
  - Impose constraints on the partitioning
- Dual grid multiscale [2]
  - Better convergence of the solution & simplify averaging of the CFD-DEM coupling
  - Relax some constraints on the partitioning

Open issues & Future work

- Multiphysics-aware partitioner
- Dynamics load-balancing
- Support for heat and mass transfer
  - Energy and mass conservation
- Resolve constraints on the mesh
  - Arbitrary meshes
  - Inter-partitions inter-physics communication
  - Use a generic coupling framework? eg **preCICE**, **OpenPALM/CWIPI**
  - Moving mesh

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Thank you for your attention!

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http://luxdem.uni.lu/
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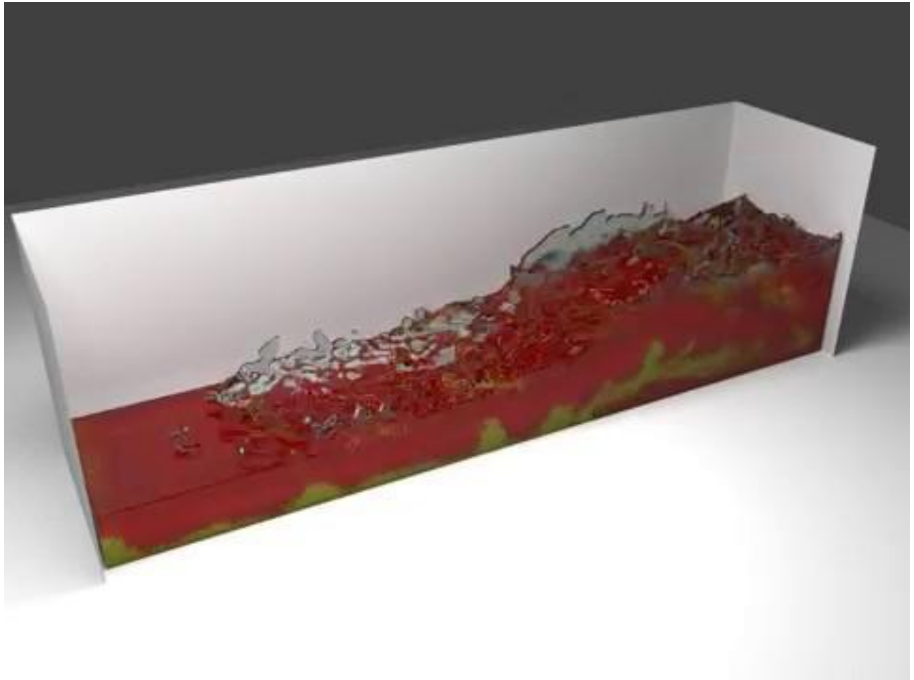

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The experiments presented in this work were carried out using the HPC facilities of the University of Luxembourg. https://hpc.uni.lu

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