

WaterLily.jl: Simulating fluid flow and dynamic geometries with a backend-agnostic Julia solver

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Abstract

Integrating computational fluid dynamics (CFD) software into optimization and machine-learning frameworks is hampered by the rigidity of classic computational languages and the slow performance of more flexible high-level languages. WaterLily.jl is an open-source incompressible viscous flow solver written in the Julia language. The small code base is multi-dimensional, multi-platform and backend-agnostic (serial CPU, multi-threaded, & GPU execution). The computational time per time step scales linearly with the number of degrees of freedom on CPUs, and we see up to a 182x speed-up using CUDA kernels. This leads to comparable performance with Fortran solvers on many research-scale problems opening up exciting possible future applications on the cutting edge of machine-learning research.

Keywords: heterogeneous-programming; Cartesian-grid methods; Julia; GPU

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Program Title: WaterLily.jl

CPC Library link to program files: (to be added by Technical Editor)

Developer's repository link: <https://github.com/weymouth/WaterLily.jl>

Code Ocean capsule: (to be added by Technical Editor)

Licensing provisions(please choose one): MIT

Programming language: Julia

Supplementary material:

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Nature of problem(approx. 50-250 words):

Solution method(approx. 50-250 words):

Additional comments including restrictions and unusual features (approx. 50-250 words):

References

[1] Program summary reference 1

[2] Program summary reference 2

[3] Program summary reference 3

1. Introduction

Similar to the arXiv paper, and mention some other codes here too. Some references published at CPC that we could cite and follow to organise this paper:

- [1]
- [2, 3]
- [4]

2. Numerical methods

- FV, BDIM, GMG

3. Software design

- N-dimensional solver
- KernelAbstractions.jl
- Auto bodies

4. Benchmark and validation

- Cases: TGV (no body) [benchmark and validation], sphere/cylinder [benchmark and validation], moving body (?) [benchmark]
- Architectures: NVIDIA H100 (Marenostrum 5 at BSC), AMD Radeon Instinct MI50 (CTE-AMD cluster at BSC), serial execution (?)

Try different grid sizes, testing the GPUs at different capacity.

Profiling with Nsight (see [4]) for kernel time, CPU-GPU communication.

5. Flashy test cases

For example...

- 2D pitching/heaving airfoils (parametric bodies)
- Jellyfish (expanding/contracting bodies)
- RL control (Arthur case) to show integration of CFD and ML?

6. Conclusions

References

- [1] J. Romero, P. Costa, M. Fatica, Distributed-memory simulations of turbulent flows on modern GPU systems using an adaptive pencil decomposition library, in: Proceedings of the Platform for Advanced Scientific Computing Conference, ACM, 2022. doi:10.1145/3539781.3539797.
- [2] M. Bernardini, D. Modesti, F. Salvatore, S. Pirozzoli, Streams: A high-fidelity accelerated solver for direct numerical simulation of compressible turbulent flows, Computer Physics Communications 263 (2021) 107906. doi:https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cpc.2021.107906.
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