



# Accelerating Large Scientific Workflows Using Source Transformation Automatic Differentiation

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[compiler-research.org](http://compiler-research.org)



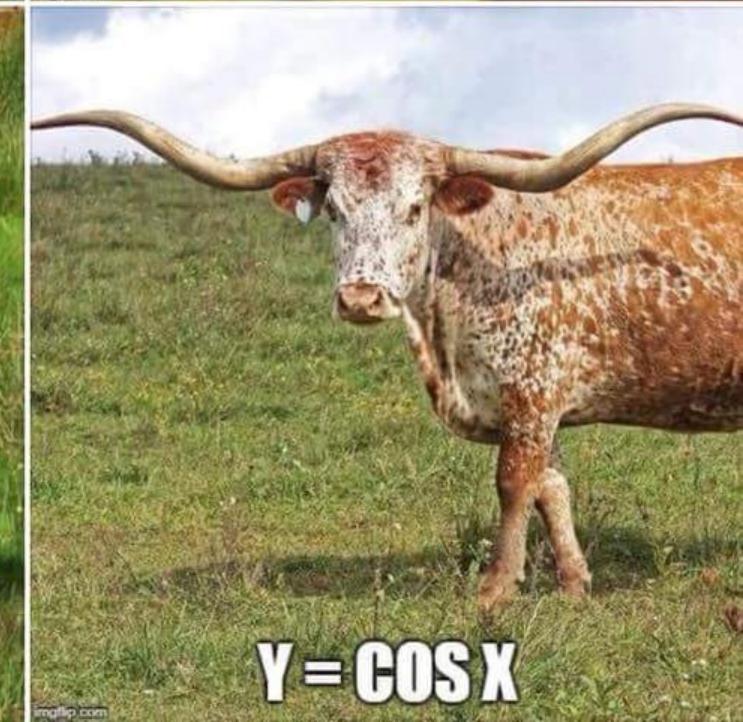
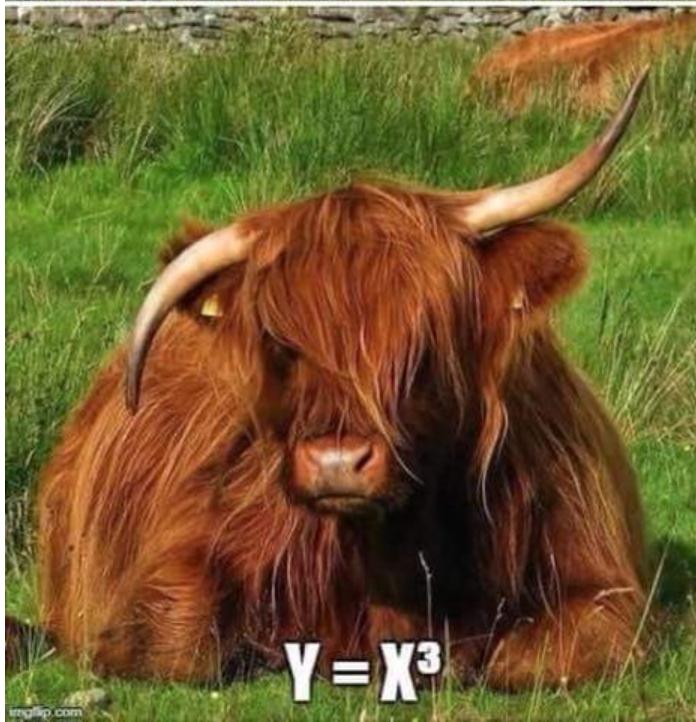
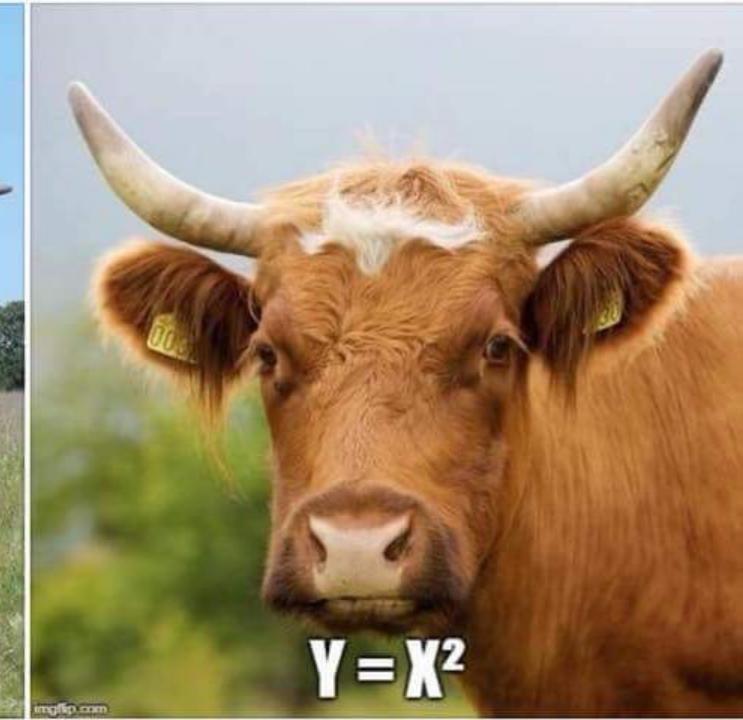
*This work is partially supported by National Science Foundation under Grant OAC- 2311471,  
OAC- 1931408 and NSF (USA) Cooperative Agreement OAC-1836650*



# Motivation

Provide automatic differentiation for C/C++ that works without  
little code modification (including legacy code)

# AD Basics



# AD. Chain Rule

$$\frac{dz}{dx} = \frac{dz}{dy} \cdot \frac{dy}{dx}$$

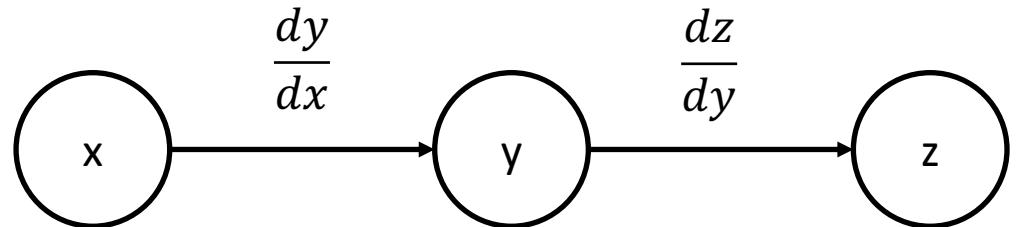
Intuitively, the chain rule states that knowing the instantaneous rate of change of  $z$  relative to  $y$  and that of  $y$  relative to  $x$  allows one to calculate the instantaneous rate of change of  $z$  relative to  $x$  as the product of the two rates of change.

“if a car travels twice as fast as a bicycle and the bicycle is four times as fast as a walking man, then the car travels  $2 \times 4 = 8$  times as fast as the man.” G. Simmons

# AD. Algorithm Decomposition

$$\begin{aligned}y &= f(x) \\z &= g(y)\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dx} &= df/dx(x) \\ \frac{dz}{dy} &= dg/dy(y) \\ \frac{dz}{dx} &= \frac{dz}{dy} * \frac{dy}{dx}\end{aligned}$$

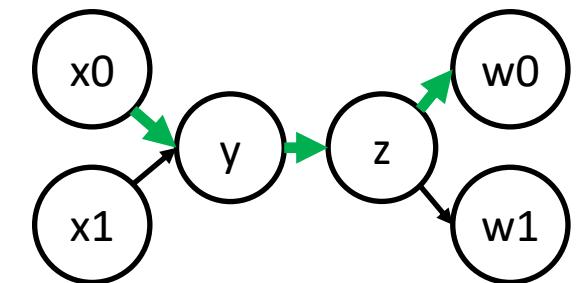
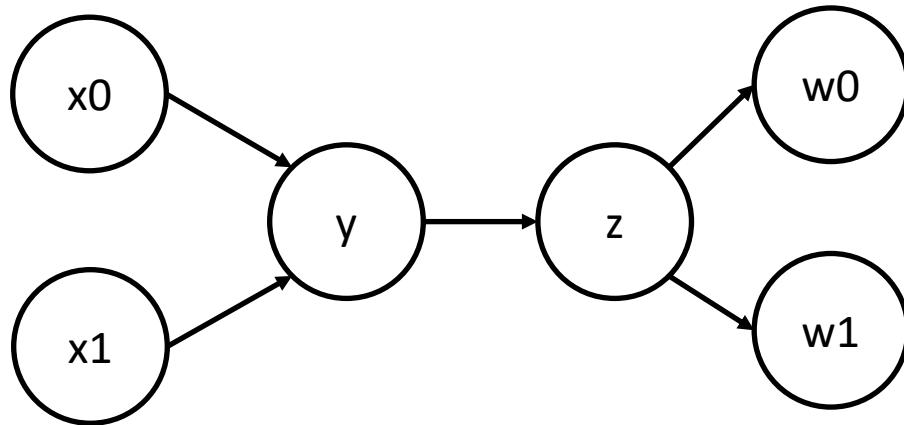


In the computational graph each node is a variable and each edge is derivatives between adjacent edges

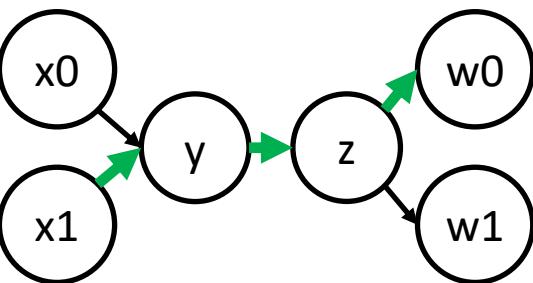
We recursively apply the rules until we encounter an elementary function such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, sin, cos or exp.

# AD. Chain Rule

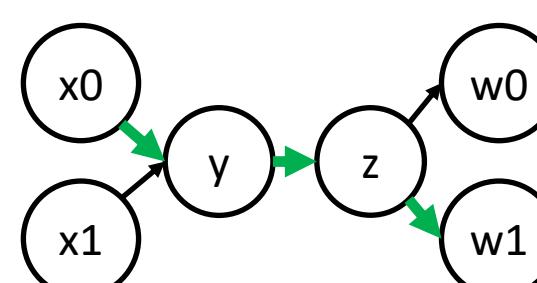
$$\begin{aligned}y &= f(x_0, x_1) \\z &= g(y) \\w_0, w_1 &= l(z)\end{aligned}$$



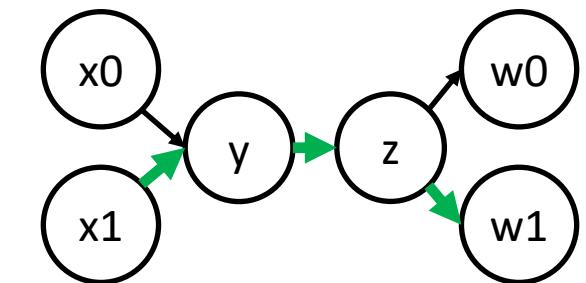
$$\frac{\partial w_0}{\partial x_0} = \frac{\partial w_0}{\partial z} \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_0}$$



$$\frac{\partial w_0}{\partial x_1} = \frac{\partial w_0}{\partial z} \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_1}$$



$$\frac{\partial w_1}{\partial x_0} = \frac{\partial w_1}{\partial z} \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_0}$$



$$\frac{\partial w_1}{\partial x_1} = \frac{\partial w_1}{\partial z} \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_1}$$

# AD step-by-step. Forward Mode

$\text{dx0dx} = \{1, 0\}$

$\text{dx1dx} = \{0, 1\}$

$y = f(x_0, x_1)$

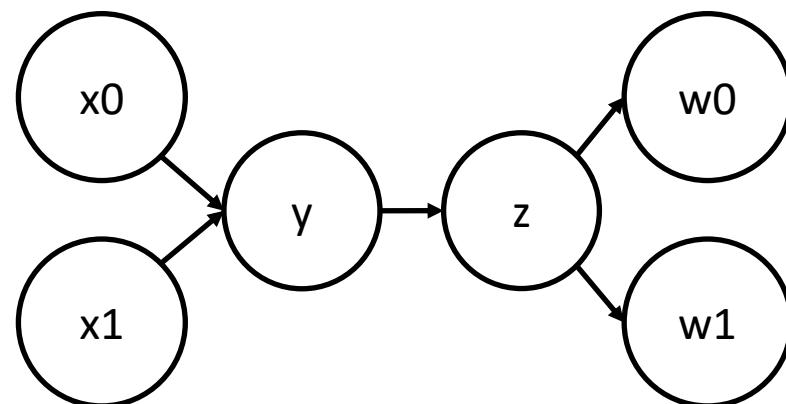
$\text{dydx} = df(x_0, \text{dx0dx}, x_1, \text{dx1dx})$

$z = g(y)$

$\text{dzdx} = dg(y, \text{dydx})$

$w_0, w_1 = l(z)$

$\text{dw0dx}, \text{dw1dx} = dl(z, \text{dzdx})$



# AD step-by-step. Reverse Mode

```
y = f(x0, x1)
```

```
z = g(y)
```

```
w0, w1 = l(z)
```

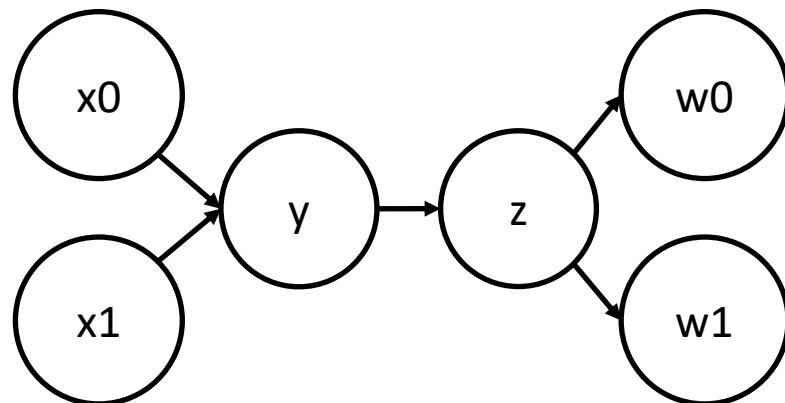
```
dwdw0 = {1, 0}
```

```
dwdw1 = {0, 1}
```

```
dwdz = dl(dwdw0, dwdw1)
```

```
dwdy = dg(y, dwdz)
```

```
dwx0, dwx1 = df(x0, x1, dwdy)
```



# AD. Cheap Gradient Principle

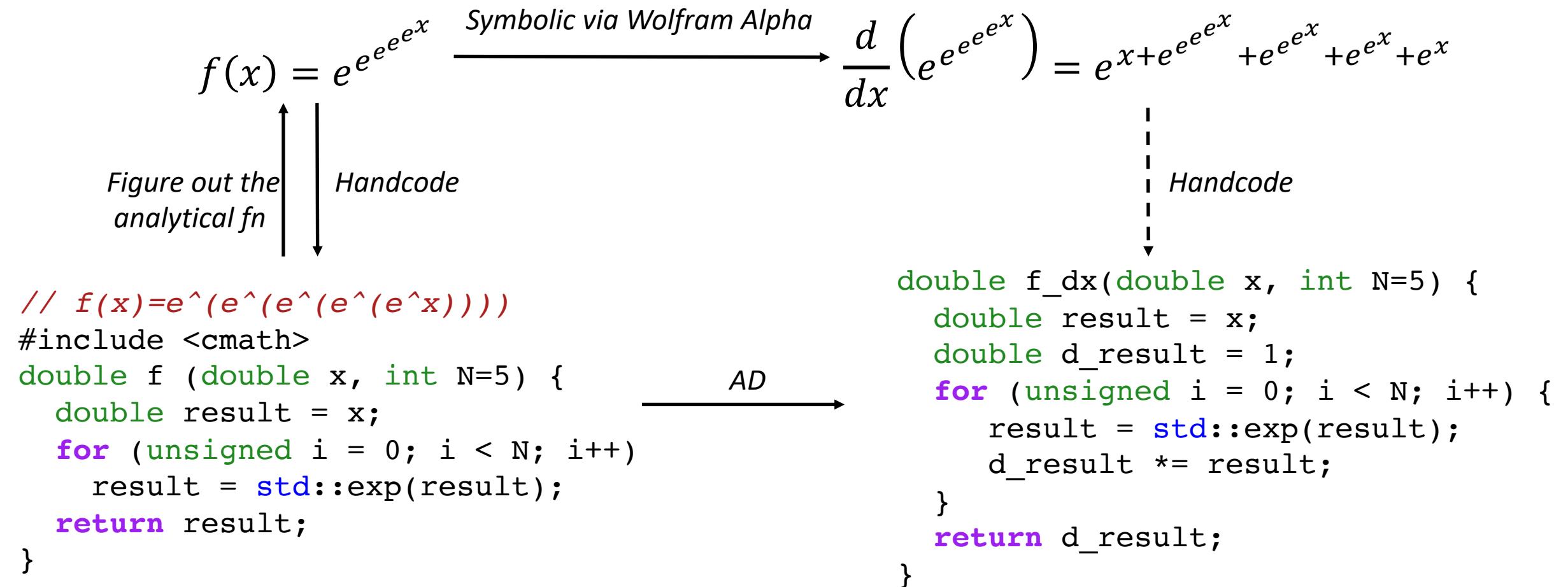
- The computational graph has **common subpaths** which can be precomputed
- If a function has a single input parameter, no matter how many output parameters, **forward mode** AD generates a **derivative** that has the **same time complexity** as the original function
- More importantly, if a function has a **single output** parameter, **no matter how many input** parameters, reverse mode AD generates **derivative** with the **same time complexity** as the original function.

## AD. Implementation Approaches

AD tools can be categorized by how much work is done before program execution

- *Tracing/Operator Overloading/Dynamic Graphs/Taping* -- Records the linear sequence of computation operations at runtime into a tape
- *Source Transformation* -- Constructs the computation graph and produces a derivative at compile time

# Automatic vs Symbolic Differentiation



# AD. Gradient Generation

- Control Flow and Recursion fall naturally in forward mode.
- Extra work is required for reverse mode in reverting the loop and storing the intermediaries **in general**.

```
double f_reverse (double x, int N=5) {  
    double result = x;  
    std::stack<double> results;  
    for (unsigned i = 0; i < N; i++) {  
        results.push(result);  
        result = std::exp(result);  
    }  
    double d_result = 1;  
    for (unsigned i = N; i; i--) {  
        d_result *= std::exp(results.top());  
        results.pop();  
    }  
    return d_result;  
}
```

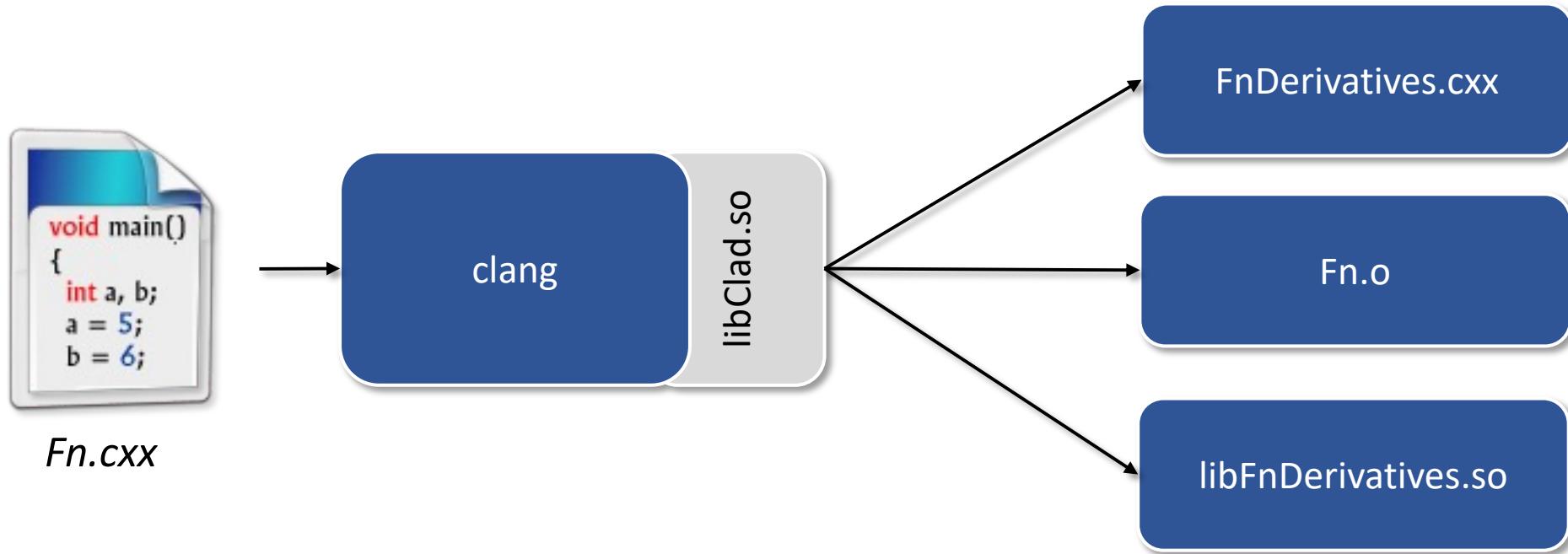
c1ad



# Clad. Design Principles

- ~~Look Ma' I can make a compiler generate a derivative!~~
- Make AD a first-class citizen to a high-performance language such as C++
- Support idiomatic C++ (compile-time programming such as `constexpr`, `consteval`)
- Infrastructure reuse – employ our compiler engineering skills
- Lower contribution entry barrier
- **Diagnostics**

# High-Level Data Flow



- Compiler module, very similar to the template instantiator by idea and design.
- Generates  $f'$  of any given  $f$  using source transformation at compile time.

# Programming Model

```
// clang++ -fplugin libclad.so -Iclad/include ...  
  
// Necessary for clad to work include  
#include "clad/Differentiator/Differentiator.h"  
double pow2(double x) { return x * x; }  
double pow2_darg0(double);  
  
int main() {  
    auto dfdx = clad::differentiate(pow2, 0);  
  
    // Function execution can happen in 3 ways:  
    // 1) Using CladFunction::execute method.  
    double res = cladPow2.execute(1);  
  
    // 2) Using the function pointer.  
    auto dfdxFnPtr = cladPow2.getFunctionPtr();  
    res = cladPow2FnPtr(2);  
  
    // 3) Using direct function access through fwd declaration  
    res = pow2_darg0(3);  
    return 0;  
}
```

The body will be generated by Clad

Result via Clad's function-like wrapper

Result via function pointer call

Result via function forward declaration

# Programming Model. Differential Operators

## User-defined substitutions

```
// MyCode.h
float custom_fn(float x);

namespace custom_derivatives {
    float custom_fn_dx(float x) {
        return x * x;
    }

    float do_smth(float x) {
        return x * x + custom_fn(x);
    }

    int main() {
        clad::differentiate(do_smth, 0).execute(2); // will return 6
        return 0;
    }
}
```

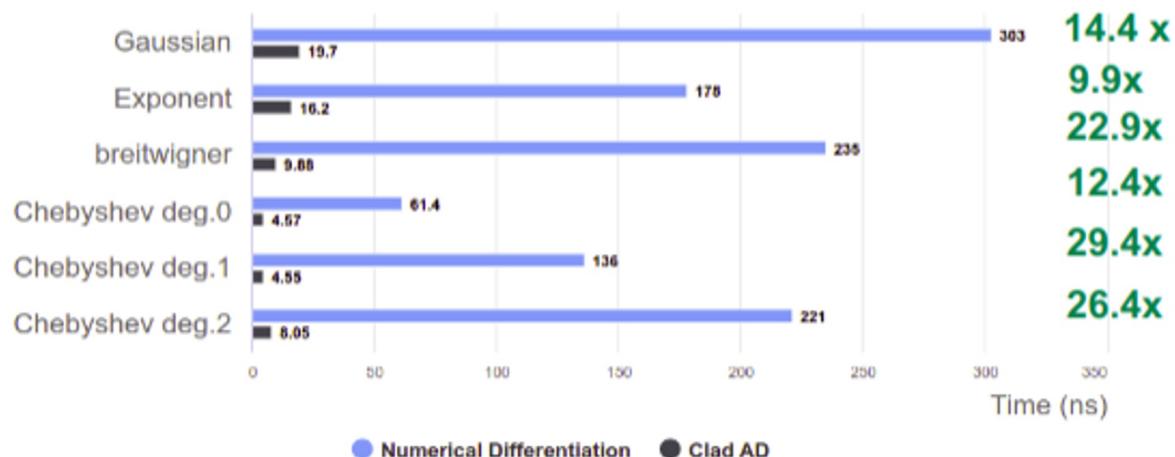
```
92     template <typename T1, typename T2>
93     CUDA_HOST_DEVICE ValueAndPushforward<decltype(::std::pow(T1(), T2())),
94                                         decltype(::std::pow(T1(), T2()))>
95     pow_pushforward(T1 x, T2 exponent, T1 d_x, T2 d_exponent) {
96         auto val = ::std::pow(x, exponent);
97         auto derivative = (exponent * ::std::pow(x, exponent - 1)) * d_x;
98         // Only add directional derivative of base^exp w.r.t exp if the directional
99         // seed d_exponent is non-zero. This is required because if base is less than or
100        // equal to 0, then log(base) is undefined, and therefore if user only requested
101        // directional derivative of base^exp w.r.t base -- which is valid --, the result would
102        // be undefined because as per C++ valid number + NaN * 0 = NaN.
103         if (d_exponent)
104             derivative += (::std::pow(x, exponent) * ::std::log(x)) * d_exponent;
105         return {val, derivative};
106     }
107 }
```

# Clad in High-Energy Physics

A data analysis framework used to process EB data

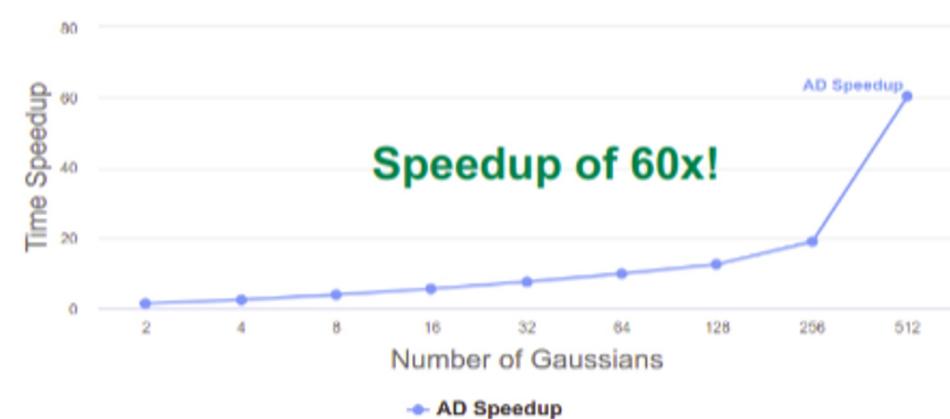
- We have seen some promising results (in ROOT) already!

Performance Comparison of Generation in TFormula



TFormula benchmarks of gradient generation time from numerical differentiation and clad AD.

Performance Speedup of a Multi-Gaussian Fit (10000 bins)



TF1 based benchmarks. TF1 is the TFormula fitting interface for fitting histograms.

# There and Back Again

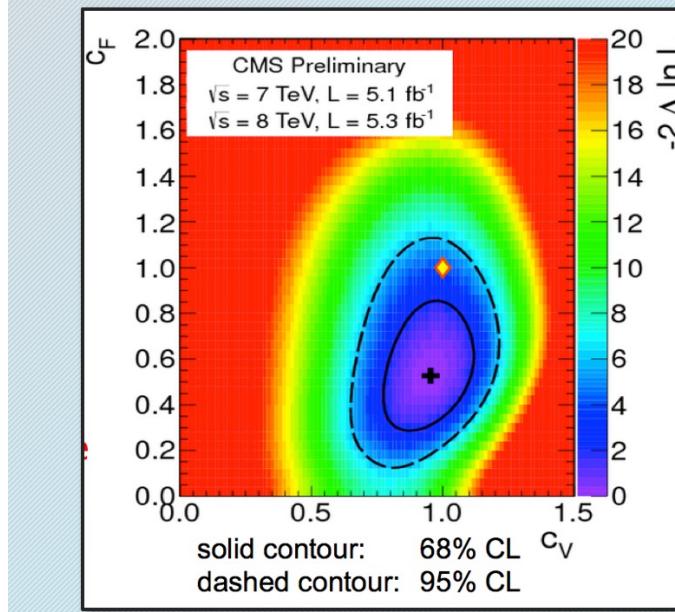
Social Engineering, Progress,  
Social Engineering...

In the meanwhile: Cling,  
ROOT6, C++ Modules, IPCC-  
ROOT, compiler-research.org,  
Clang-Repl ...

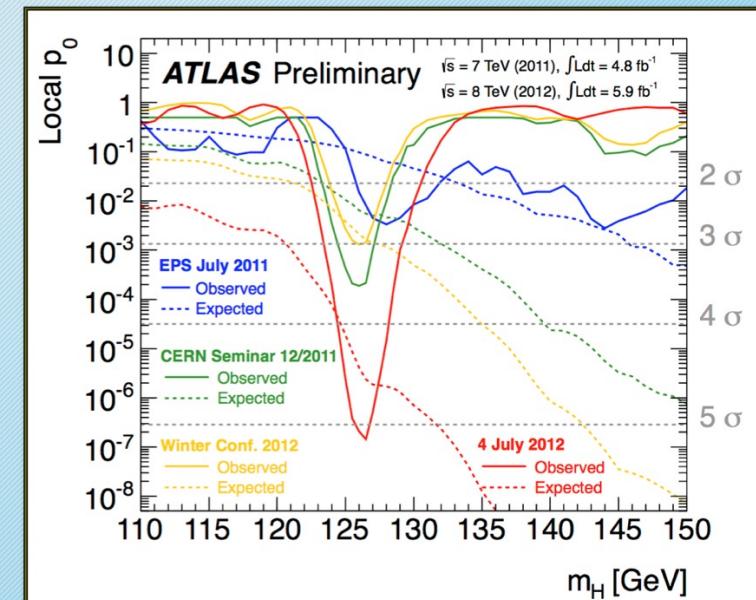
## Derivatives in C++ in HEP

4

- Relevant for building gradients used in fitting and minimization.
- Minimization of likelihood function with ~1000 parameters

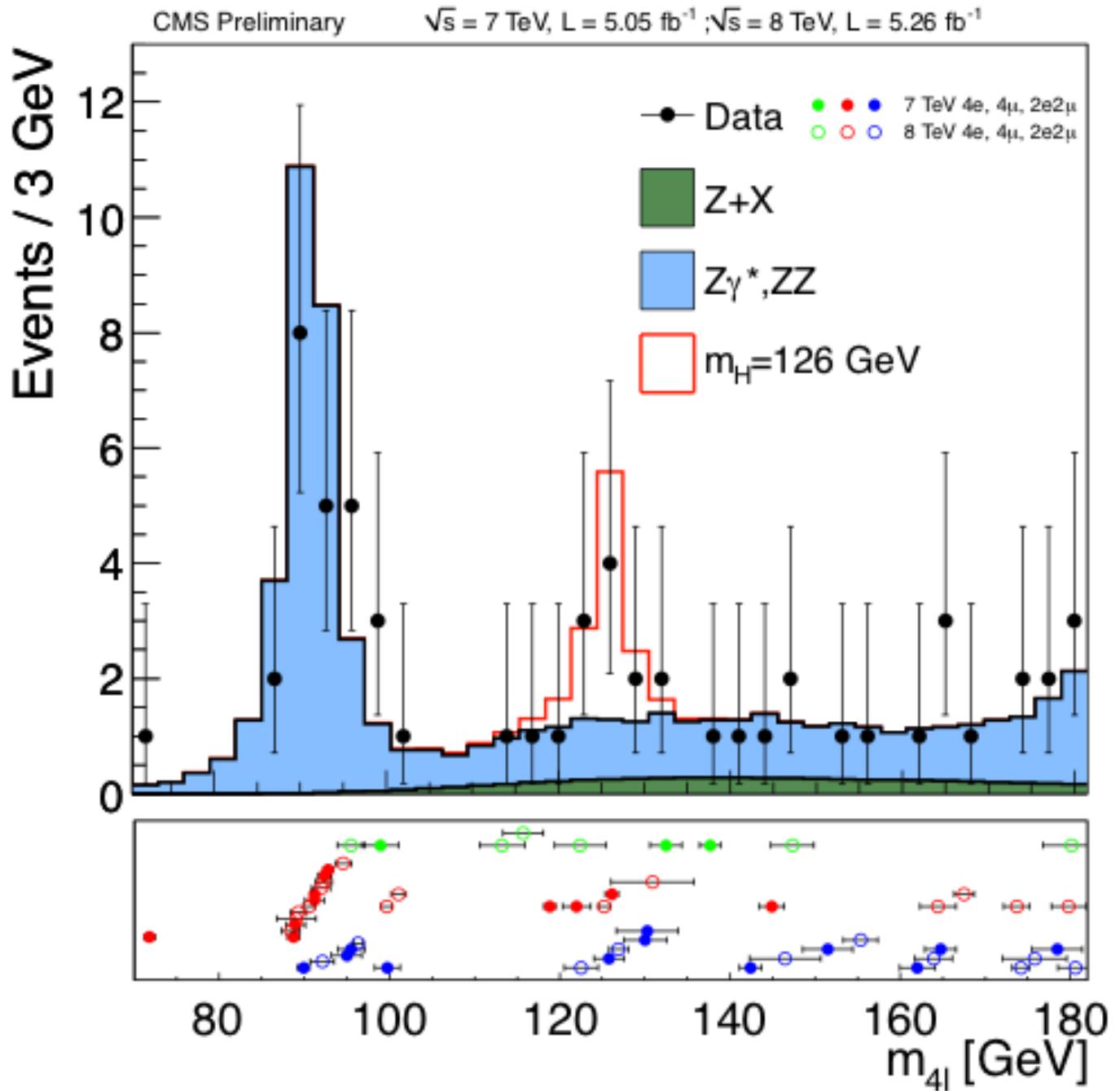


Vassil Vassilev/ACAT14



1.09.14

# Statistical Modelling



# Automatic Differentiation in RooFit



G. Singh

RooFit represents all mathematical formulae as RooFit objects which are then brought together into a compute graph. This compute graph makes up a model on which further data analysis is run.

Math Notations		RooFit Object
variable	$x$	RooRealVar
function	$f(x)$	RooAbsReal
PDF	$f(x)$	RooAbsPdf
space point	$\hat{x}$	RooArgSet
integral	$\int_a^b f(x)$	RooRealIntegral
list of space points	$\hat{x}_1, \hat{x}_2, \hat{x}_3 \dots$	RooAbsData

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}(\frac{x-\mu}{\sigma})^2}$$

Gaussian Probability  
Distribution Function (pdf)

//Obj represents  $f(x)$  here  
RooGaussian obj(x, mu,  
sigma);

Equivalent Code in C++ with RooFit

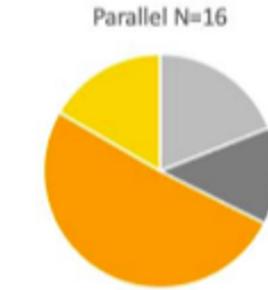
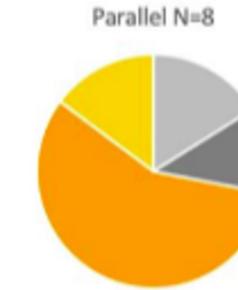
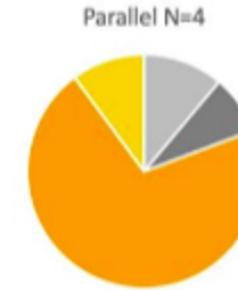
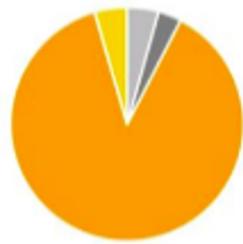
Programmers/users know this relationship. But  
how do we connect these two together when a  
connection is not obvious in code?

# Bottlenecks

- One goal - Make RooFit Faster. Results from a Higgs-combination fit:

serial old	parallel N=1	parallel N=2	parallel N=4	parallel N=8	parallel N=16
setup_roofit	313	327	315	315	327
minuit_init	230	231	231	231	231
gradient_calc	6289	7102	3734	1997	1107
line_search	323	287	287	287	287

Derivatives become bottleneck!



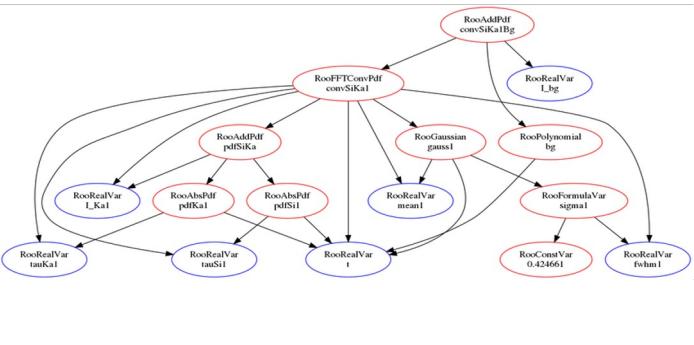
ICHEP 2022 - Zeff Wolfs - [https://agenda.infn.it/event/28874/contributions/169205/attachments/93887/129094/ICHEP\\_RooFit\\_ZefWolfs.pdf](https://agenda.infn.it/event/28874/contributions/169205/attachments/93887/129094/ICHEP_RooFit_ZefWolfs.pdf)

- Good results, but still use numerical differentiation.
- Potential next step – use Automatic Differentiation to compute the gradients.

Image ref: Automatic Differentiation of Binned Likelihoods With RooFit and Clad - Garima Singh, Jonas Rembser, Lorenzo Moneta, Vassil Vassilev, ACAT 2022

# Automatic Differentiation in RooFit

What that we want to differentiate



Some way to expose differentiable properties of the graph as code.



C++ code the AD tool can understand



C++ code the AD tool can understand



The AD tool

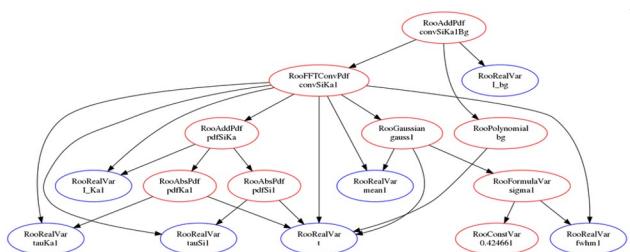
+ Cla  $\partial$  =

Derivative code of the model!



# Automatic Differentiation in RooFit. Approach

What that we want to differentiate



Define 2 Functions in RooFit

C++ code the AD tool can understand



Stateless function enabling differentiation of each class.

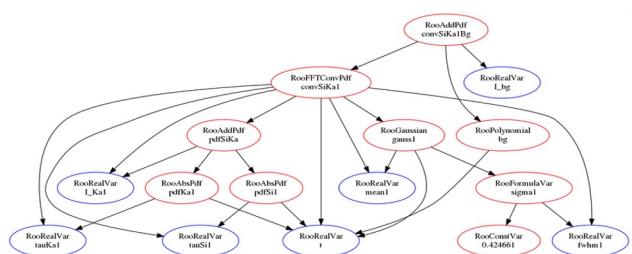
```
double ADDetail::gauss(double x, double mean, double sigma) {  
    const double arg = x - mean;  
    const double sig = sigma;  
    return std::exp(-0.5 * arg * arg / (sig * sig));  
}
```

The “glue” function enabling graph squashing.

```
void RooGaussian::translate(...) override {  
    result = "ADDetail::gauss(" +  
            _x->getResult() +  
            ", " + _mu->getResult() +  
            ", " + _sigma->getResult() + ")";  
}
```

# Automatic Differentiation in RooFit. Approach

What that we want to differentiate



Define 2 Functions in RooFit

C++ code the AD tool can understand



**RooGaussian::evaluate()**  
The RooFit call to evaluate a gaussian

- Bookkeeping  
& caching

**ADDetail::gauss(x, mu, sig)**  
The equivalent code generated

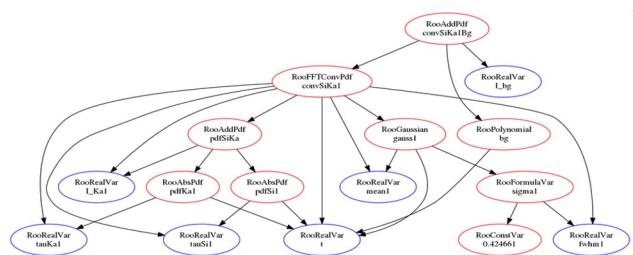


**ADDetail::gauss(x, mu, sig) / ADDetail::gaussIntegral(...)**

The equivalent code generated  
(given the class supports analytical integrals)

# Automatic Differentiation in RooFit. Approach

What that we want to differentiate



'Squash' the graph into code

`Roo*::translate()`

C++ code the AD tool can understand



C++ code the AD tool can understand



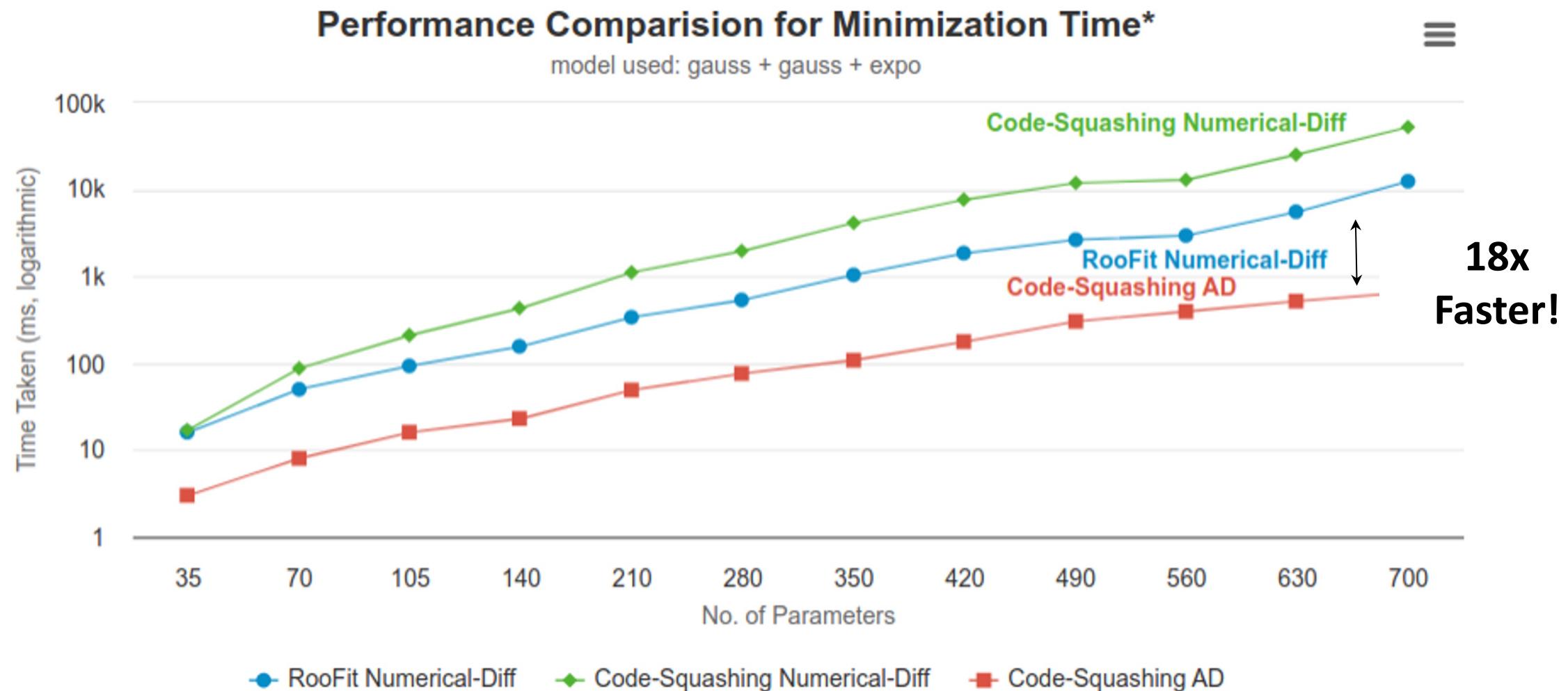
The AD tool

`+ Cla $\partial$  =`

Derivative code of the model!



# Basic RooFit Example With Binned Fit of Analytical Shapes



Tested on ROOT master as of May 2023.

\*Excludes the seed generation time

# Large Analysis Benchmark Describing Workflows in HEP

*Fitting Time (s)\**

N Channels	RooFit ND	RooFit AD	Speedup
1	0.03	0.01	2x
5	1.19	0.26	2.5x
10	2.22	0.36	5.2x
20	7.38	1.17	5.3x

Link to paper: <https://atlas.web.cern.ch/Atlas/GROUPS/PHYSICS/PAPERS/HIGG-2018-51/>

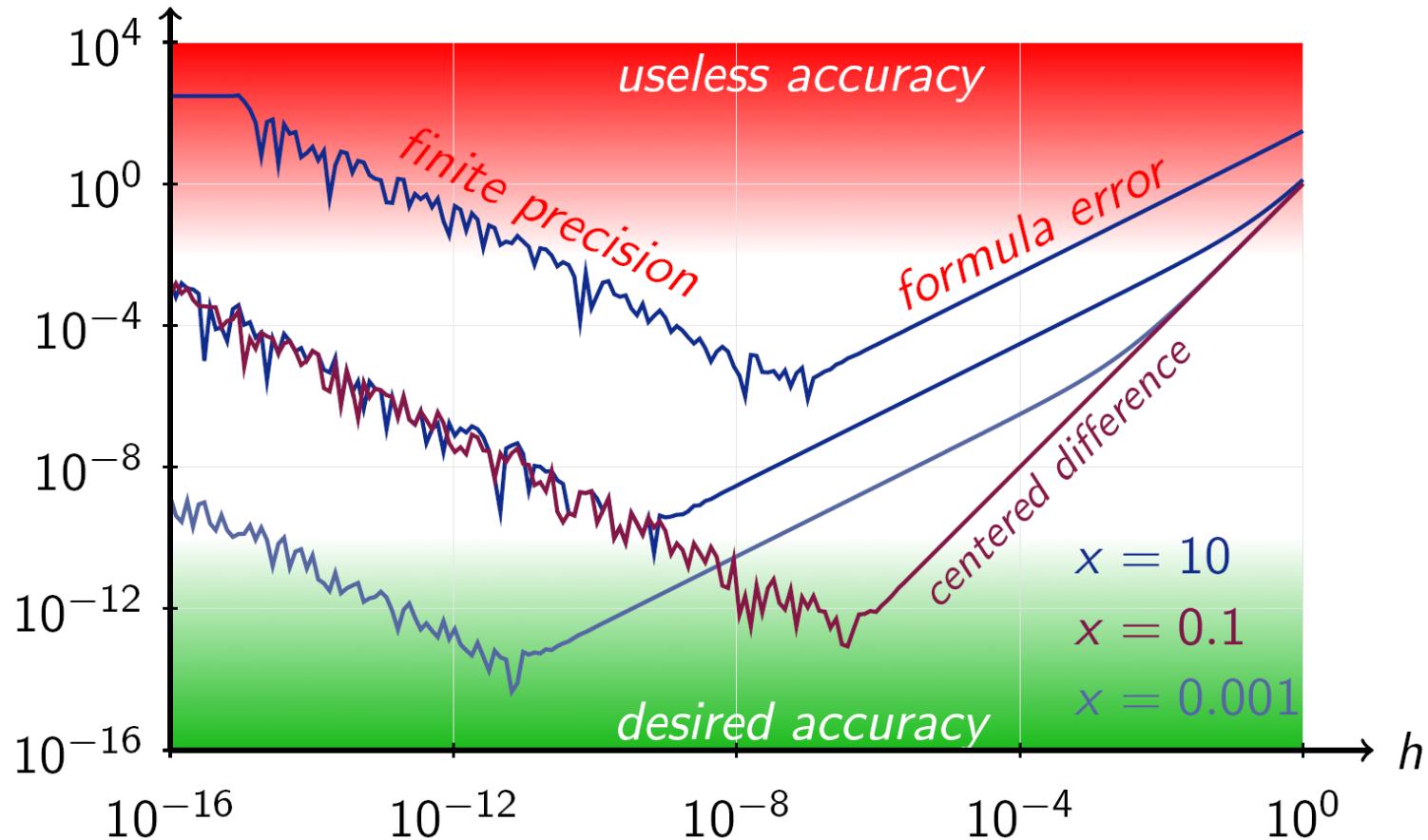
\*Excludes the seed generation time, more info

# Large Analysis Benchmark Compile Times

Mode	JIT	gcc10	clang-13
-O0	16s	1.15s	0.82
-O1	17s	4.46s	6.00s
-O2	17s	9.24s	8.57s
-O3	17s	10.69s	8.88s

The generated code is suboptimal for the optimization pipelines.  
We know how to fix this.

# Floating Point Error Analysis



# Floating point errors

	<b>Value</b>	<b>Error</b>
Input number:	0.3	-
Representation in float:	0.30000001192092895508	1.19e-08
Representation in double:	0.29999999999999998890	1.11e-17

*Let's try a simple addition operation:  $0.3 + 0.3$*

Operation output:	0.6	-
Representation in float:	0.60000002384185791016	2.38e-08
Representation in double:	0.59999999999999997780	2.22e-17

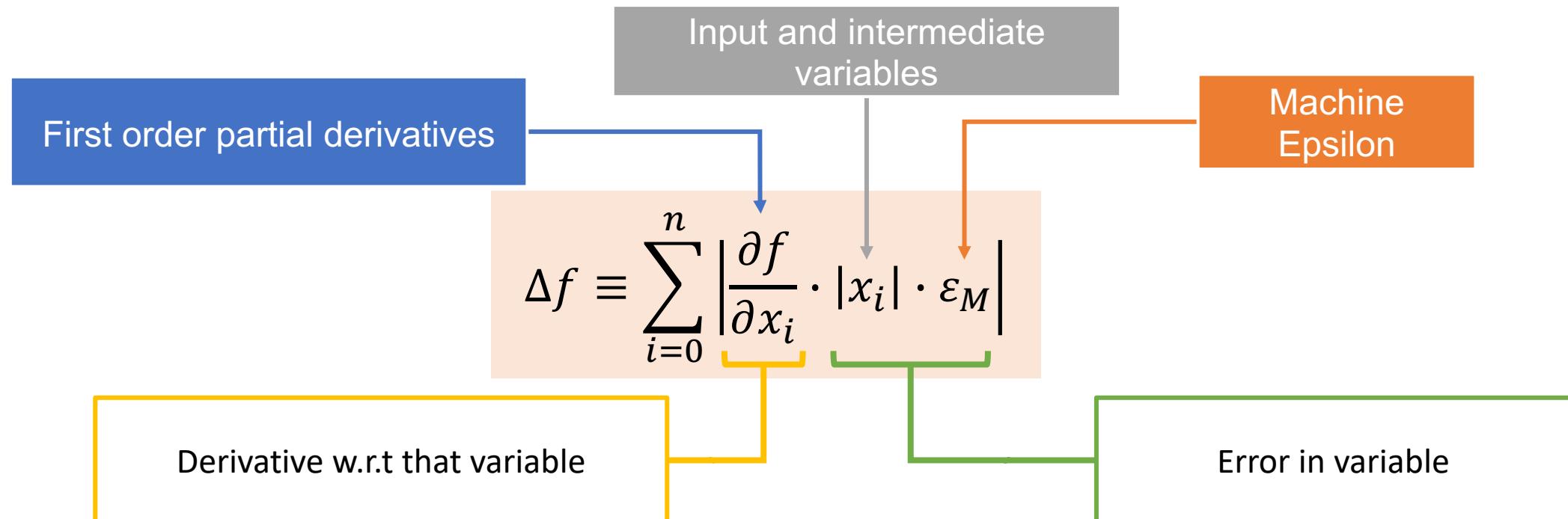
[Link to code](#) for these numbers

# Classical Formula for Error Estimation

The maximum floating-point error ( $h_{max}$ ) in  $x$  as allowed by IEEE is  $|x| \cdot \varepsilon_M$ , where  $\varepsilon_M$  is the machine epsilon.

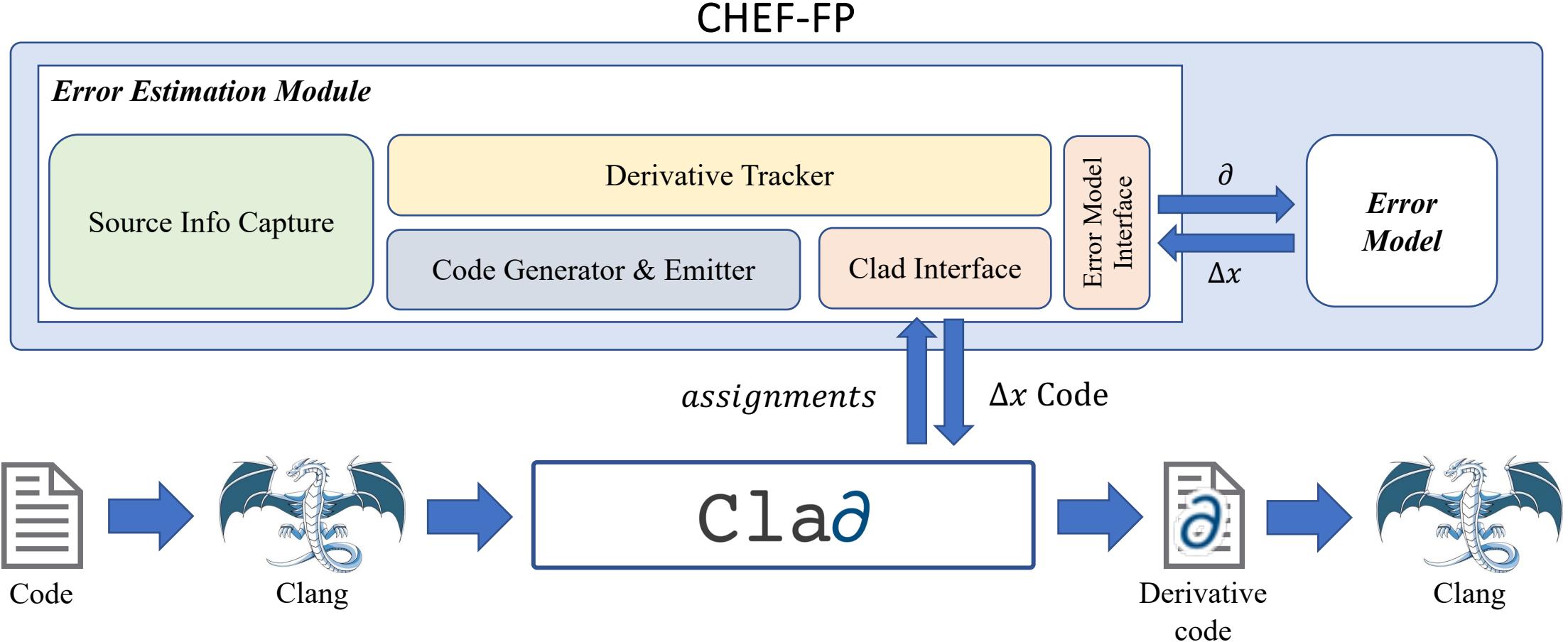
$$\Delta f_x \approx |f'(x) \cdot |x| \cdot \varepsilon_M|$$

The general representation of the error estimation formula is:



Link to paper: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2304.06441>

# Clad in FP Error Analysis: CHEF-FP



# CHEF-FP Usage

Execute the CHEF-FP  
object to get the error

```
double func(double x, double y) {  
    double z = x + y;  
    return z;  
}
```

```
#include "clad/Differentiator/Differentiator.h"  
#include "../PrintModel/ErrorFunc.h"
```

```
// Call CHEF-FP on the function  
auto df = clad::estimate_error(func);
```

```
double x = 1.95e-5, y = 1.37e-7;  
double dx = 0, dy = 0;  
double fp_error = 0;  
  
df.execute(x,y, &dx, &dy, fp_error);  
  
std::cout << "FP error in func: " << fp_error;  
// FP error in func: 8.25584e-13  
  
// Print mixed precision analysis results  
clad::printErrorReport();
```

USER GENERATED CODE

```
void func_grad(double x, double y,  
              clad::array_ref<double> _d_x,  
              clad::array_ref<double> _d_y,  
              double &_final_error) {  
    double _d_z = 0, _delta_z = 0, _EERepl_z0;  
    double z = x + y;  
    _EERepl_z0 = z;  
    double func_return = z;  
    _d_z += 1;  
    * _d_x += _d_z;  
    * _d_y += _d_z;  
    _delta_z +=  
        clad::getErrorVal(_d_z, _EERepl_z0, "z");  
    double _delta_x = 0;  
    _delta_x +=  
        clad::getErrorVal(* _d_x, x, "x");  
    double _delta_y = 0;  
    _delta_y +=  
        clad::getErrorVal(* _d_y, y, "y");  
    _final_error +=  
        _delta_y + _delta_x + _delta_z;  
}
```

AUTO GENERATED CODE

The function generated by CHEF-FP to estimate the errors

# Plans

- Grey box AD
  - Enhance the pushforward/pullback mechanisms to avoid common AD pitfalls
- Further advancements and applications on floating point error estimation
  - Controlling the error limits helps the energy efficiency of algorithms
- Robust activity analysis
- A research platform AD in C/C++
  - Combines all power of Clang Static Analyzer, LLVM Optimization Passes, Control Flow Graphs



*Violeta Ilieva*  
Initial prototype,  
Forward Mode



*Vassil Vassilev*  
Conception,  
Mentoring, Bugs,  
Integration,  
Infrastructure



*Martin Vassilev*  
Forward Mode,  
CodeGen



*Alexander Penev*  
Conception,  
CMake, Demos,  
Jupyter



*Aleksandr Efremov*  
Reverse Mode



*Jack Qui*  
Hessians



*Roman Shakhov*  
Jacobians



*Oksana Shadura*  
Infrastructure,  
Co-mentoring



*Pratyush Das*  
Infrastructure



*Garima Singh*  
FP error  
estimation,  
RooFit, Bugs



*Ioana Ifrim*  
CUDA AD



*Parth Arora*  
Initial support  
classes, functors,  
pullbacks



*Baidyanath Kundu*  
Array Support,  
ROOT integration



*Vaibhav Thakkar*  
Forward Vector Mode

# Thank you!