

# PROJECT MINERVA

Accelerated Deployment of MFEM Based Solvers in  
Large Scale Industrial Problems Topic: 2/a



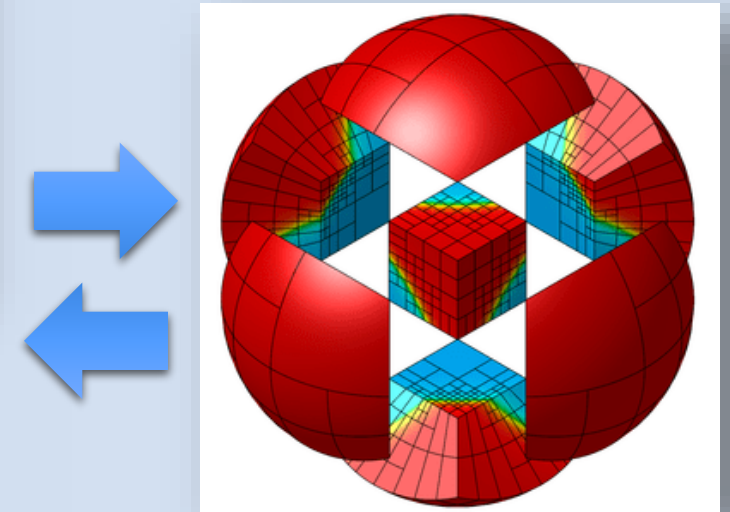
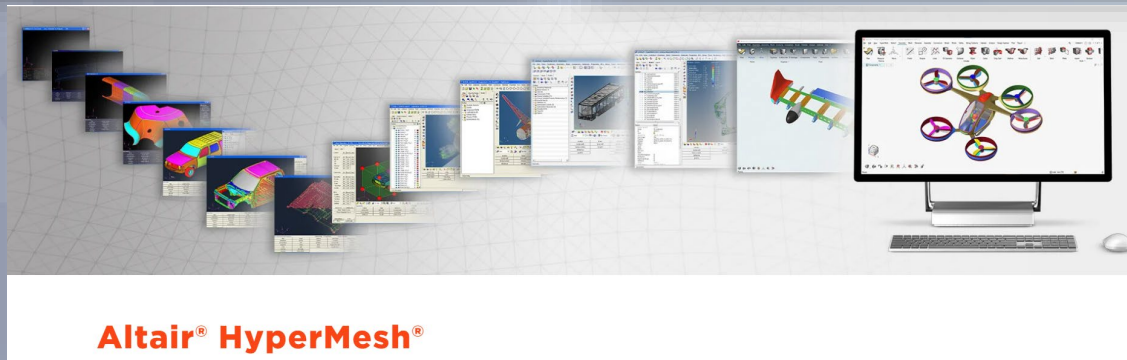
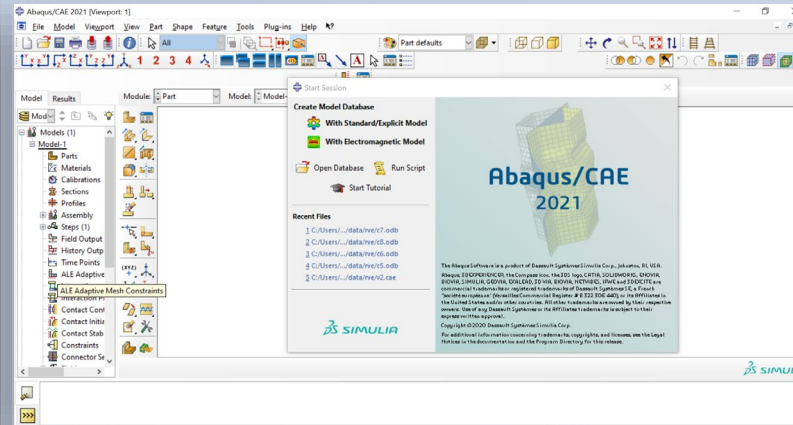
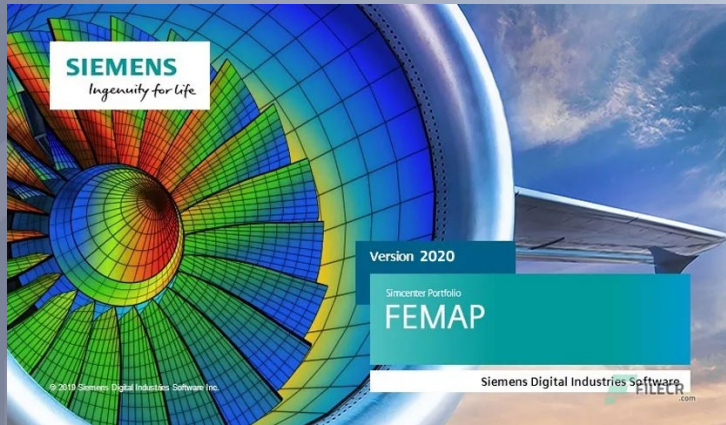
- Minerva is intended to be a secure, cloud deployable platform based on the MFEM software
  - The goal of Minerva is to accelerate HPC finite element research and application development for a wide variety of computational environments
  - It is anticipated that through collaboration, organizations in academia and industry will be early adopters of this platform to support a customer ecosystem focused on accelerating enhancements to MFEM



# CONCEPT

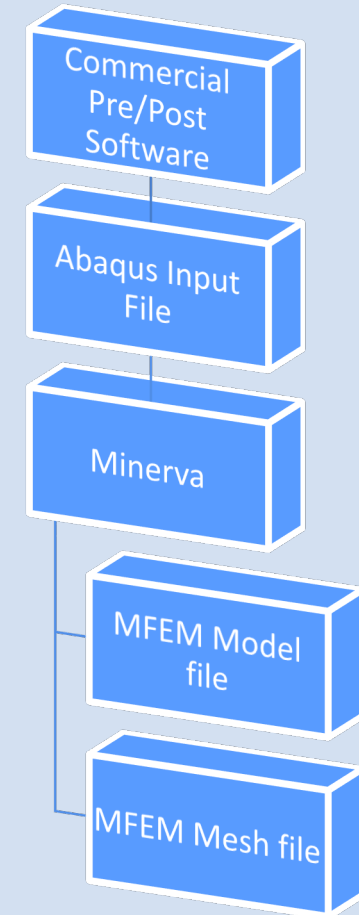


- Leverage mature, commercially available CAD and FE pre/post software to develop MFEM models
- Disrupt current commercial software/hardware models for HPC FEA



# SOFTWARE LAYER

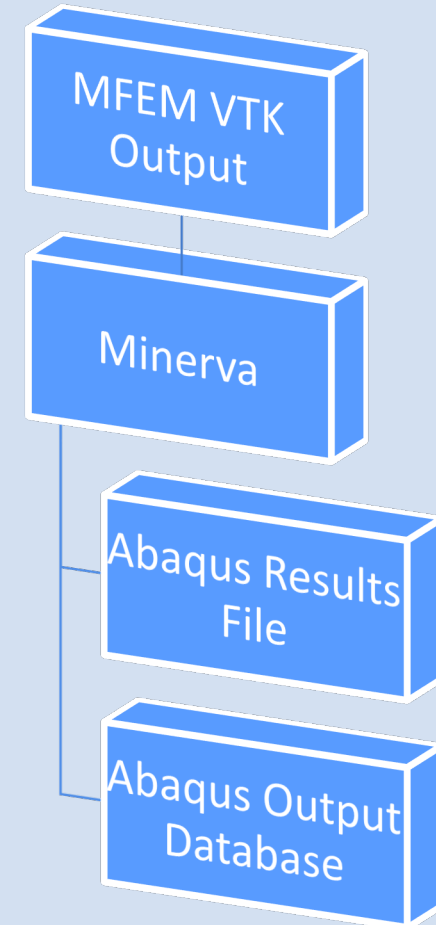
- The current layer translates an Abaqus input file into a MFEM mesh file and a MFEM model file
- The layer currently supports:
  - 3D solid continuum elements (tet, hex)
  - Essential BCs (surfaces not nodes)
  - Surface loads (pressure, traction, etc.)
  - Multiple isotropic materials definitions
  - Static, linear analysis
- The MFEM mesh file (\*.mesh) is generated completely by the layer
- The MFEM model file (\*.cpp) is generated by automatically populating fields in a template for static analysis
  - Serial
  - Parallel
  - Parallel + AMR



# DATABASE TRANSLATOR



- The VTK output from MFEM is converted to Abaqus results file formats that are read by Hypermesh, FEMAP, Abaqus/CAE, etc.
  - A similar approach can be implemented in Phase II to support ANSYS pre/post software
- Currently supports:
  - 3D solid continuum elements (tet, hex)
  - Displacements
  - Stress tensors
  - Strain tensors



# EXAMPLES



- MFEM Example-2
  - Model created in Abaqus/CAE
  - Run in MFEM
  - Visualized in Abaqus/CE

## Example 2: Linear Elasticity

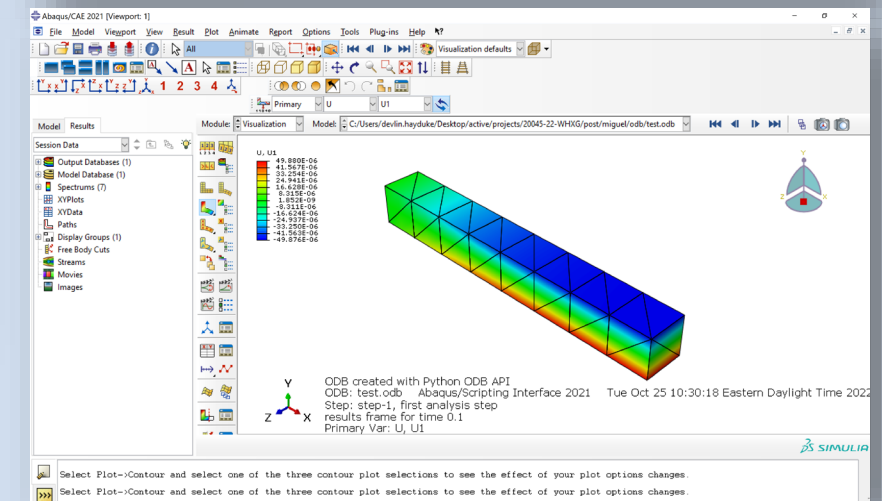
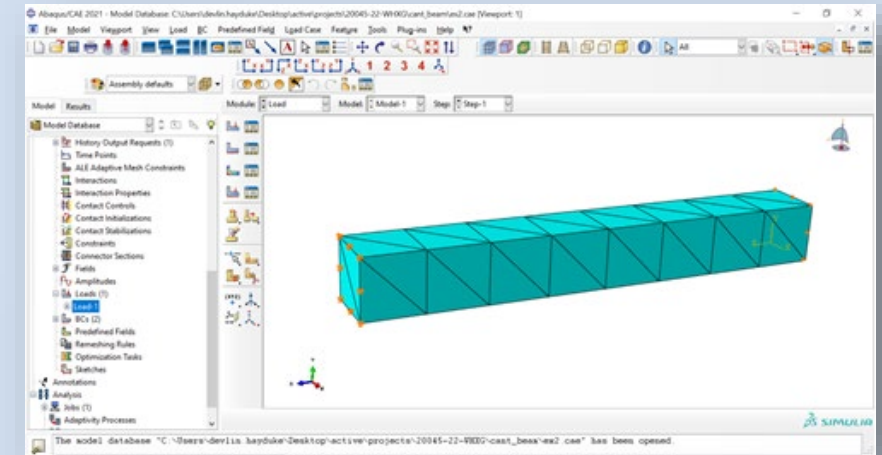
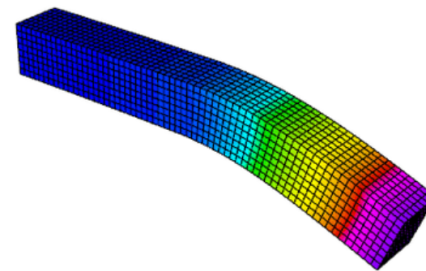
This example code solves a simple linear elasticity problem describing a multi-material cantilever beam. Specifically, we approximate the weak form of

$$-\operatorname{div}(\sigma(\mathbf{u})) = 0$$

where

$$\sigma(\mathbf{u}) = \lambda \operatorname{div}(\mathbf{u}) I + \mu (\nabla \mathbf{u} + \nabla \mathbf{u}^T)$$

is the stress tensor corresponding to displacement field  $\mathbf{u}$ , and  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$  are the material Lamé constants. The boundary conditions are  $\mathbf{u} = 0$  on the fixed part of the boundary with attribute 1, and  $\sigma(\mathbf{u}) \cdot \mathbf{n} = \mathbf{f}$  on the remainder with  $\mathbf{f}$  being a constant pull down vector on boundary elements with attribute 2, and zero otherwise. The geometry of the domain is assumed to be as follows:

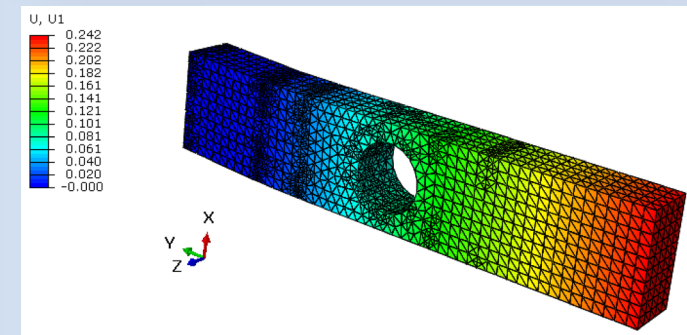
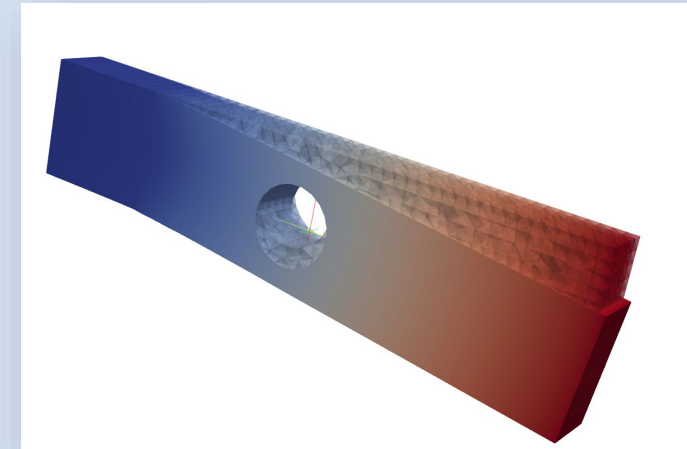
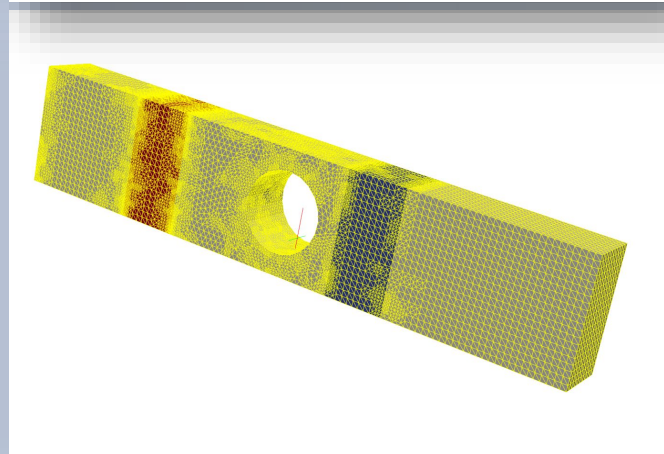
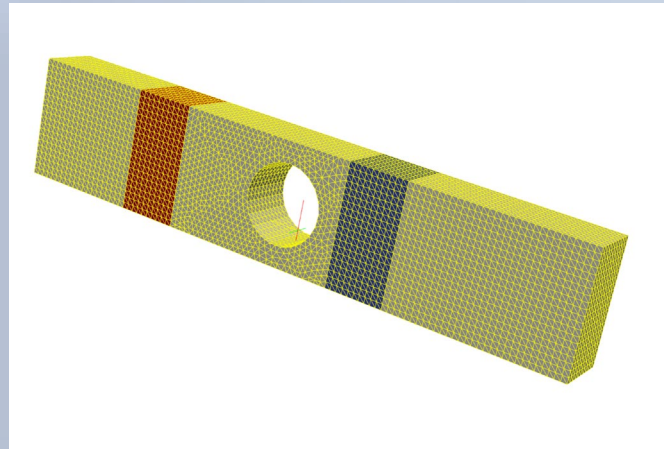
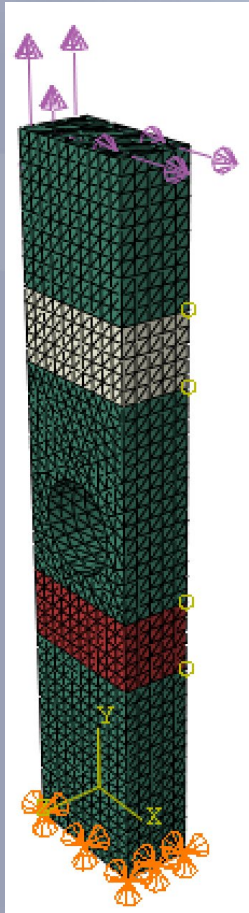




# EXAMPLES



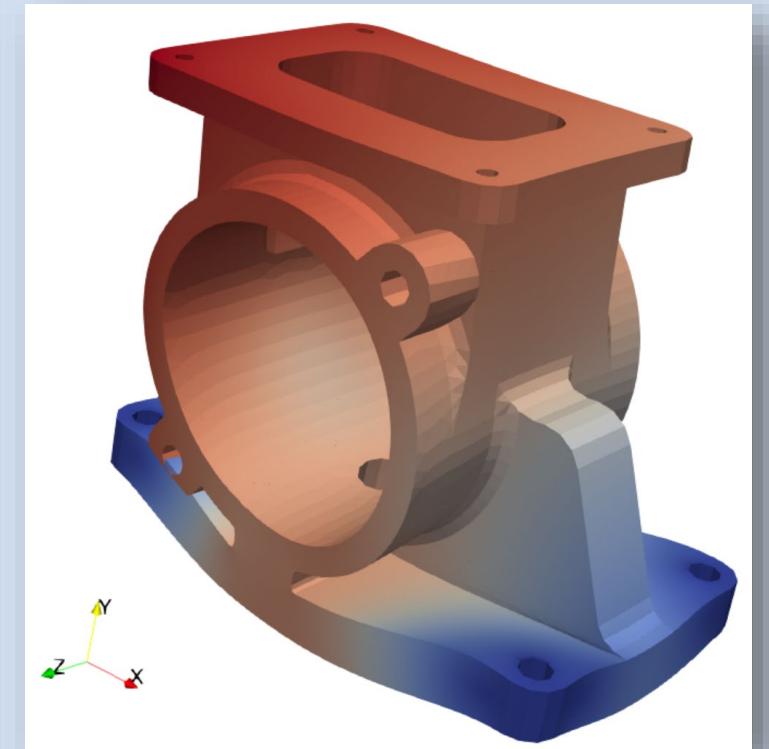
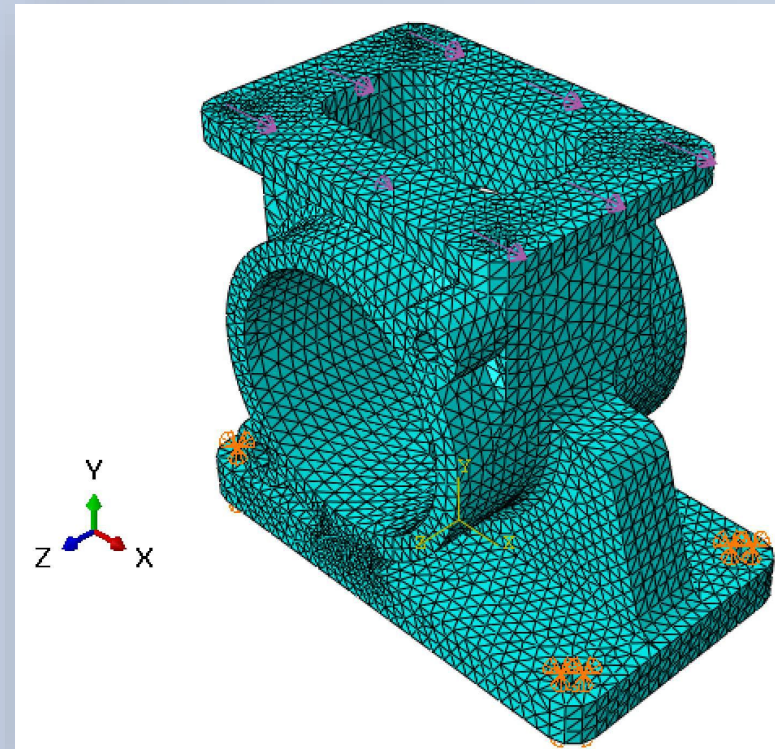
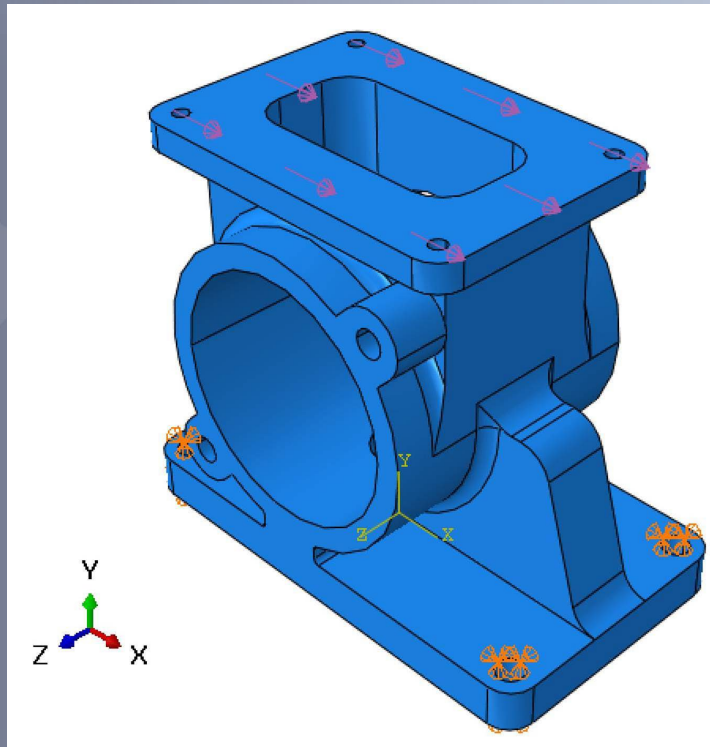
- Multi-Material + Multi-Load + AMR



# EXAMPLES



- Complex-ish Part





# MFEM ENHACEMENTS



- The current effort is supporting the following MFEM enhancements:
  - Stress/strain coefficients allowing easy VTK output
    - ASCII VTK output fix
  - Local and Non-local elastoplastic solver
    - Explicit integration
    - Implicit integration
  - Support for different materials for the solver
    - Elastic-perfectly plastic
    - Orthotropic
  - Thermo-elasticity
  - Distributed loads

Governing equations:

$$\begin{aligned} -\nabla \sigma &= \mathbf{f} + \text{BC} \\ -\nabla^T r^2 \nabla \bar{\varepsilon}_p + \bar{\varepsilon}_p &= \varepsilon_p \\ \nabla \bar{\varepsilon}_p \cdot \mathbf{n} &= 0 \quad \text{on} \quad \partial\Omega \end{aligned}$$

$\bar{\varepsilon}_p$  - regularized accumulated plastic strain

Constitutive behaviour:

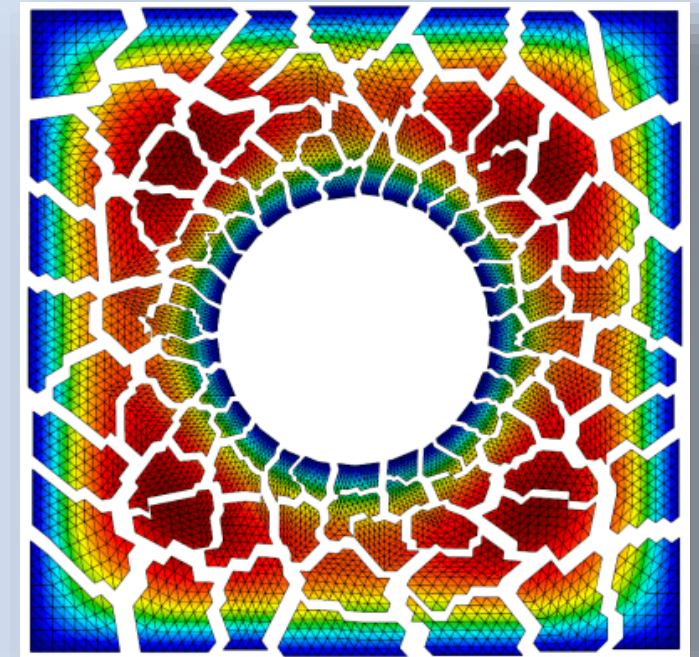
$$\begin{aligned} f(\sigma, \bar{\varepsilon}_p) &= \sigma_e(\sigma) - \sigma_y(\bar{\varepsilon}_p) & \sigma_y(\bar{\varepsilon}_p) &= e^{\beta \bar{\varepsilon}_p} (\sigma_{y,0} + H \varepsilon_p) \\ \sigma_e(\sigma) &= \sqrt{\frac{3}{2} \sigma^D : \sigma^D} & \dot{\varepsilon}_p &= \sqrt{\frac{2}{3} \varepsilon_p : \varepsilon_p} \\ \sigma^D &= \sigma - \text{tr}(\sigma) \mathbf{I} / 3 & \sigma &= \mathbf{D} (\varepsilon - \varepsilon_p) \end{aligned}$$

- Highly desirable feature for structural analysis that is not available in commercial solvers
- Length scale,  $r$ , for mesh independent analysis directly relates to fracture criteria
- Currently being implemented and verified
  - Add to next MFEM release

# CLOUD-BASED PLATFORM



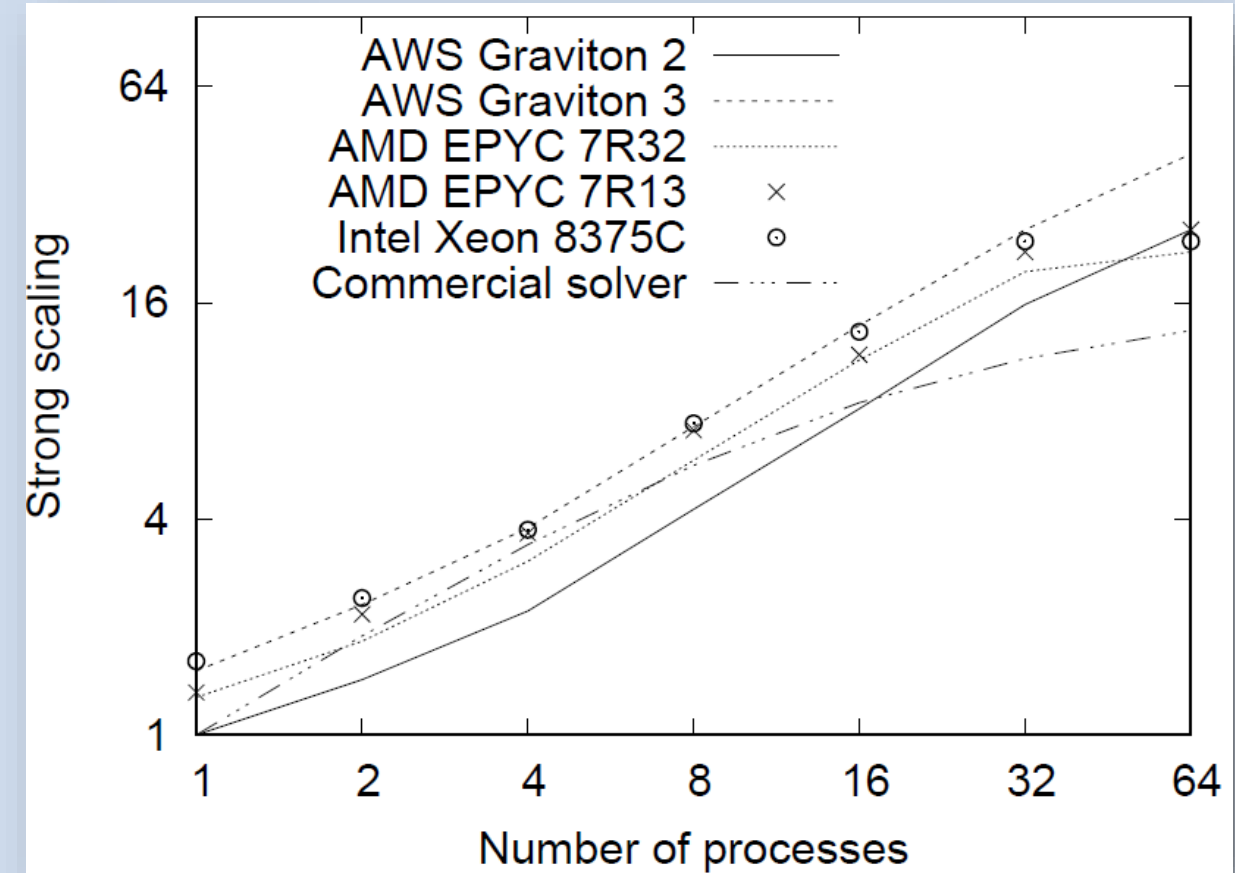
- The team is currently evaluating Amazon Web Services (AWS) and platforms that provide frontends to manage AWS for software deployment
- The scalability study is performed on five different AWS 64-virtual CPU machines with ARM and x86 architectures
  - The ARM machines are with Amazon's CPUs Graviton 2 and 3 with 64 cores, i.e., every virtual CPU corresponds to one CPU core
  - The x86 machines are multithreaded, and two virtual CPUs are mapped to one physical core
- The test code is an example from MFEM, executed on four times refined hex mesh with a total of 7.2M DOFs



# HPC PERFORMANCE



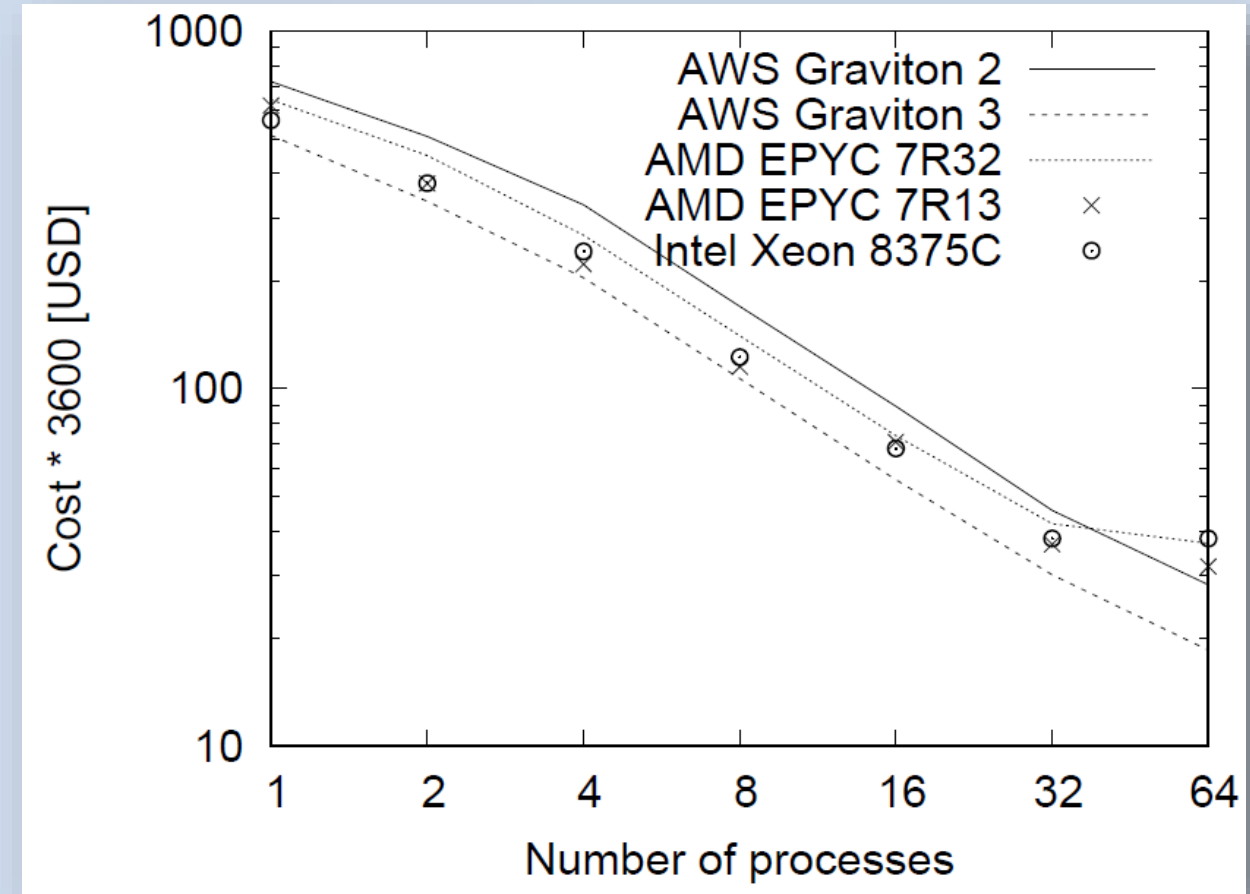
- The scalability study is performed on five different AWS 64-virtual CPU machines with ARM and x86 architectures
  - The ARM machines are with Amazon's CPUs Graviton 2 and 3 with 64 cores, i.e., every virtual CPU corresponds to one CPU core
  - The x86 machines are multithreaded, and two virtual CPUs are mapped to one physical core
- On all platforms, the scalability is close to perfect, except for the x86 architectures
  - At 32 processes, the curve for the x86 machines is flattening, a well-known behavior on CPU with enabled multi-threading
- Commercial solvers do not offer such nice scalability
  - In comparison to MFEM, we can observe a factor of two differences in performance
- In addition, we are not aware of any major commercial solver available for ARM architectures



# HPC COST



- At 64 CPUs, the Graviton 3 machine is approximately four times cheaper than any of the x86 machines, and the Graviton 2 machine is around two times cheaper
- Compared to an equivalent simulation with commercial software, the difference will be a factor of eight which clearly demonstrates the possibilities for cost saving in addition to proven parallel scalability
- Of course, to lower the cost, one can select smaller machines for runs on a smaller number of processes than 64
  - However, the available memory on such machines will limit the size of the problem
- Currently, commercial solver licenses are priced per CPU and cloud-based deployments are priced to more than annual licenses





## PROJECT TEAM:

### Devlin Hayduke, ReLogic (PI)

#### FE research:

Material models and element formulations for analyses of composite structures

Topology optimization for advanced manufacturing applications

### Miguel Agulio, ReLogic

#### FE research:

Former developer of the Plato optimization software at SNL  
Uncertainty quantification

### Steve Pilz, ReLogic

#### FE product development:

Former Lead Product Manager at ANSYS

Adept at building coalitions and cooperative relationships between businesses and academia

### Boyan Lazarov, LLNL

#### FE research:

MFEM development team

Optimization, computational mechanics, non-linear mechanics, structural reliability, etc.

**Thank you!**  
**[relogicresearch.com](http://relogicresearch.com)**

Chandler Wicks, CEO  
[chandler.wicks@relogicresearch.com](mailto:chandler.wicks@relogicresearch.com)

Devlin Hayduke, CTO  
[devlin.hayduke@relogicresearch.com](mailto:devlin.hayduke@relogicresearch.com)