

# Accelerating Sparse Linear Solvers for O&G Reservoir Simulations Using NVIDIA Grace

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# Speakers Biography



**Felipe Portella**

PETROBRAS

HPC Advisor

M.Sc. PUC-Rio, Brazil

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BSC/UPC, Spain

## Expertise:

- Petroleum reservoir simulation
- HPC for Research & Development



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NVIDIA

Senior Solutions  
Architect

M.Sc., UFJF, Brazil

## Expertise:

- Energy segment
- HPC for seismic processing, machine learning, and data analytics in GPU architectures

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**Team**

# Agenda

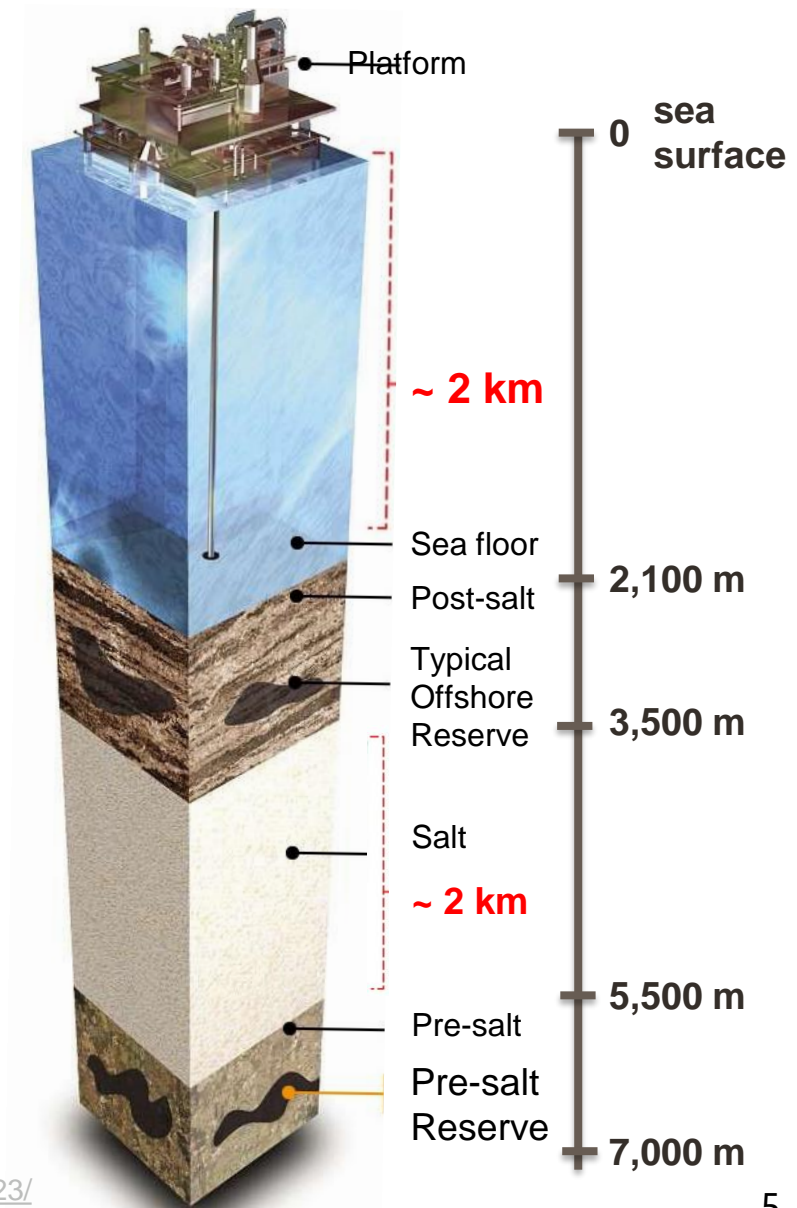
- Background
  - Petrobras & O&G Workloads
  - SolverBR
- The Journey
- Results and Discussion
- Closing Remarks





# Petrobras Quick Facts

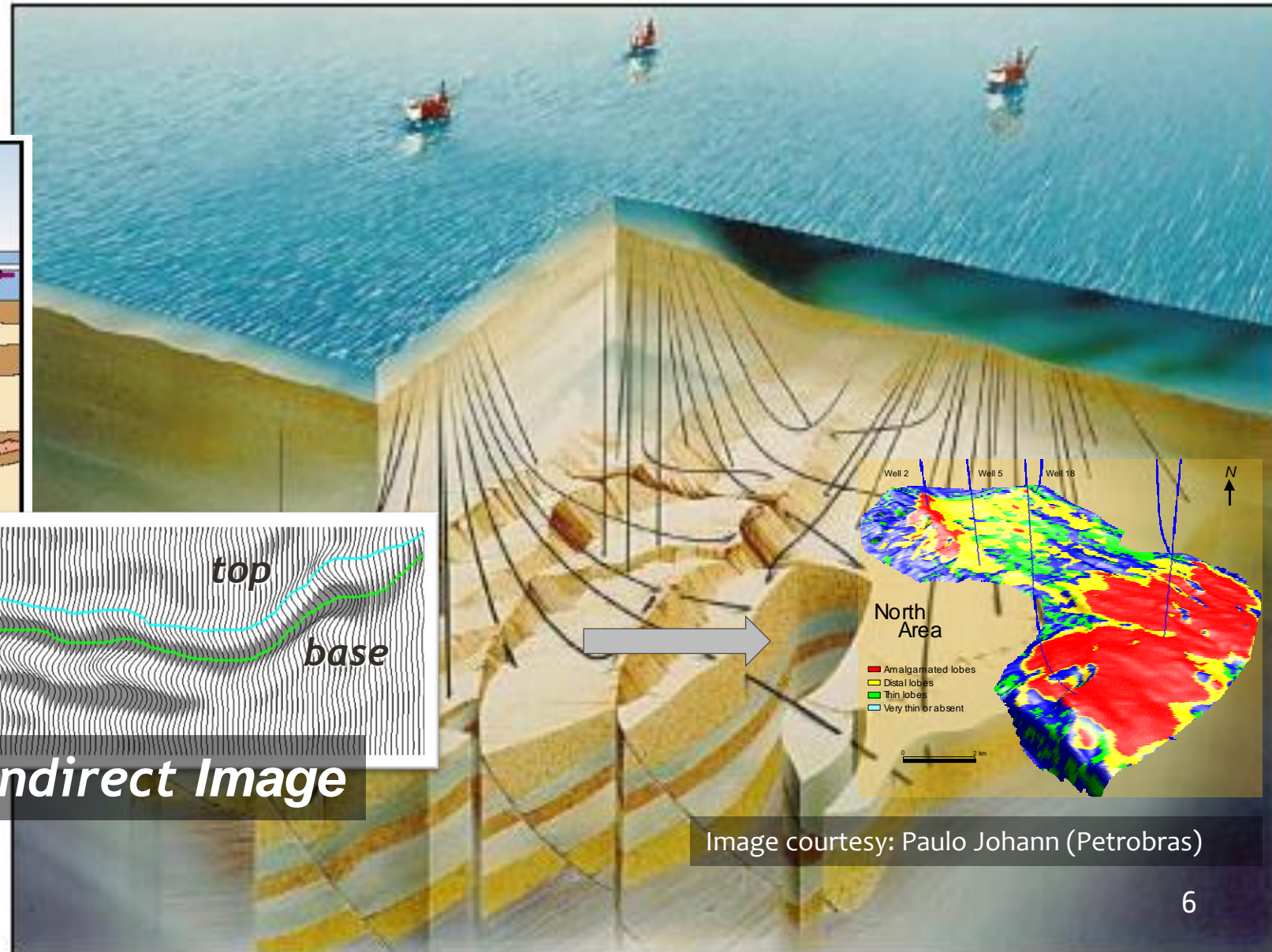
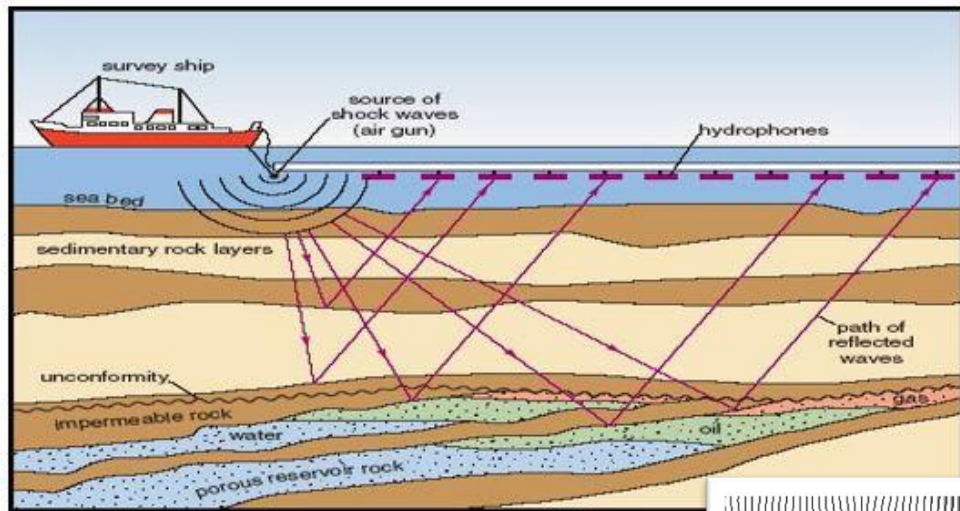
- Brazilian Energy Company
- Oil and Gas Exploration and Production as core business
- Reference in ultra-deepwater exploration
- Why HPC at Petrobras?
  - Each deep-water well typically costs between US\$70 and US\$100 million (1)
  - Petrobras will drill more than 300 offshore wells in the next 5 years (2)
  - Latin America #1 HPC: TOP500 and Green500 lists
  - Two main disciplines/workloads:
    - Geophysics – Seismic Processing
    - Reservoir Engineering – Reservoir Simulation



(1) <https://www.agenciapetrobras.com.br/pt/inovacao/petrobras-monta-supercomputador-para-desenvolver-tecnologias-18-01-2023/>

(2) [Petrobras Strategic Plan 2023-2027](#)

# Seismic Processing



Helps to  
answer the  
“WHERE”

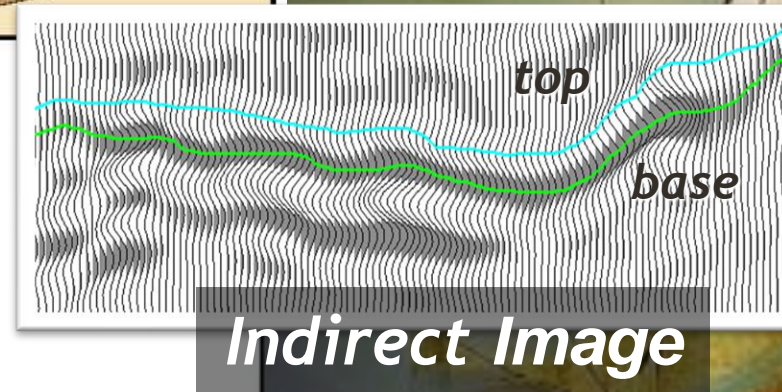
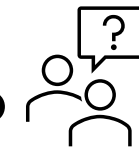


Image courtesy: Paulo Johann (Petrobras)



# Reservoir Simulation

Helps to  
answer the  
“HOW”



## Extraction Strategy

- **Wells**
  - How many?
  - Where should they be placed?
  - What type (vertical, horizontal, ...)?
  - Etc.
- **Recovery methods**
  - Primary depletion?
  - Injection of water or gas?
  - How to control the wells?
  - Etc.
- **Forecast behavior**
  - What are the final recovery volumes?
  - How about the cash flow?
  - Etc.
- **Etc.**

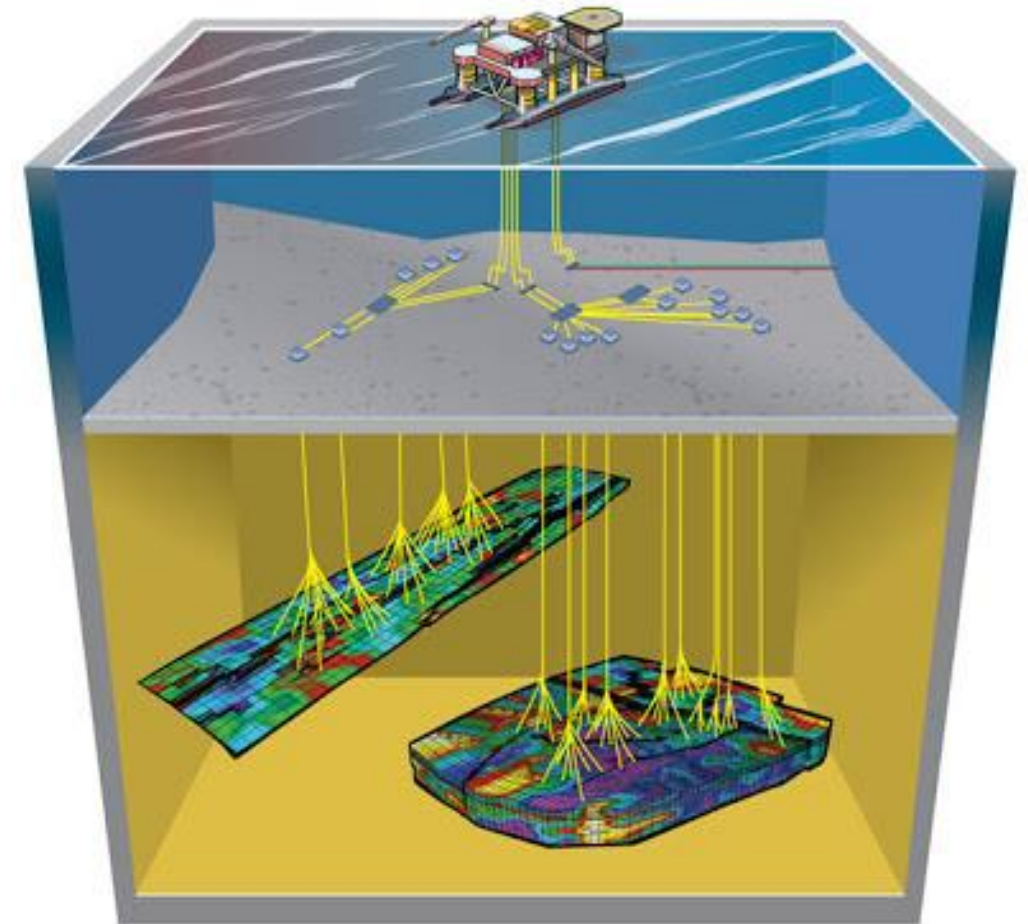


Image source: PetroBlogger.com

# Main HPC Workloads

- Seismic Processing & Imaging
  - Single precision (FP32)
  - Expressively large datasets (TBs+)
  - Mix of CPU and **GPU** Jobs (GPU)
  - **GPU** jobs (typically) with InfiniBand
  - Key compute-intensive imaging algorithms are developed in-house and optimized for **GPU** utilization
  - Processing jobs can extend over **several weeks**
  - Some GPU jobs may use **hundreds of GPUs** (even thousands)





# Main HPC Workloads

- Reservoir Simulation
  - Double precision (FP64)
  - Datasets of a smaller scale compared to seismic processing
  - Majority of **CPU** workloads (GPU acceleration still an exception)
  - Predominantly uses commercial applications
  - Relies on shared memory architectures
  - Jobs typically take hours
  - **Intensive ensemble workflows such as optimization or inverse problems**
    - batches of dozens or **hundreds of jobs** concurrently
- Other Relevant Workloads:
  - Machine Learning, Petrophysics, Geomechanics, Multiphysics, etc.



# SolverBR Motivation

- Born from the need to accelerate reservoir studies
  - Faster simulations potentially enhances predictions and reduce uncertainties
  - Simulation time is an increasingly limiting factor
  - The **linear solver** is often the **most computationally expensive kernel**
  - Reservoir problems have specific characteristics that can be explored to achieve significantly higher performance than commercial (off-the-shelf) solvers

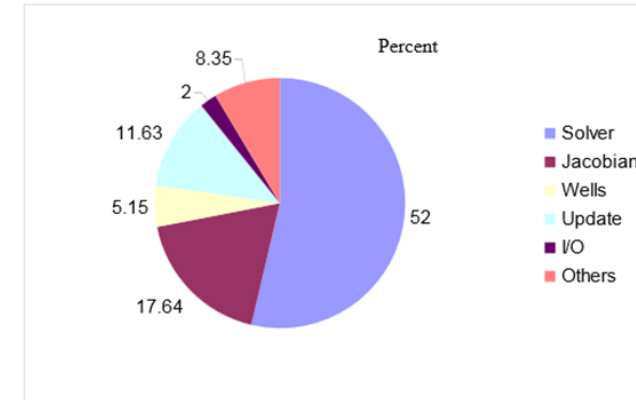


Figure 16- Distribution of Computational Work in a Next Generation Parallel Simulator

Source: Dogru et al., From Mega-Cell to Giga-Cell Reservoir Simulation, paper SPE 116675, 2008

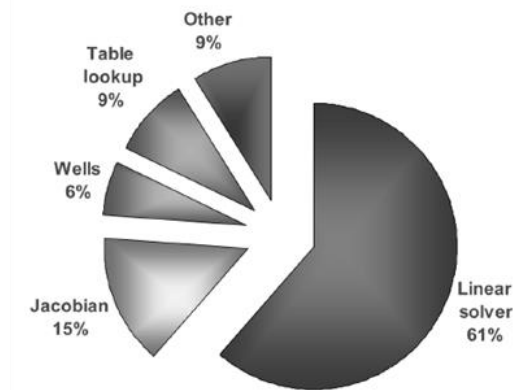


Fig. 3—Pie chart for computer time; 1.2 million-cell real reservoir, 26 years of history, 100 wells (Field Problem 1).

Source: Dogru et al., A Parallel Reservoir Simulator for Large-Scale Reservoir Simulation, SPE Reservoir Evaluation & Engineering, Feb 2002

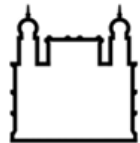
# SolverBR



UFRJ



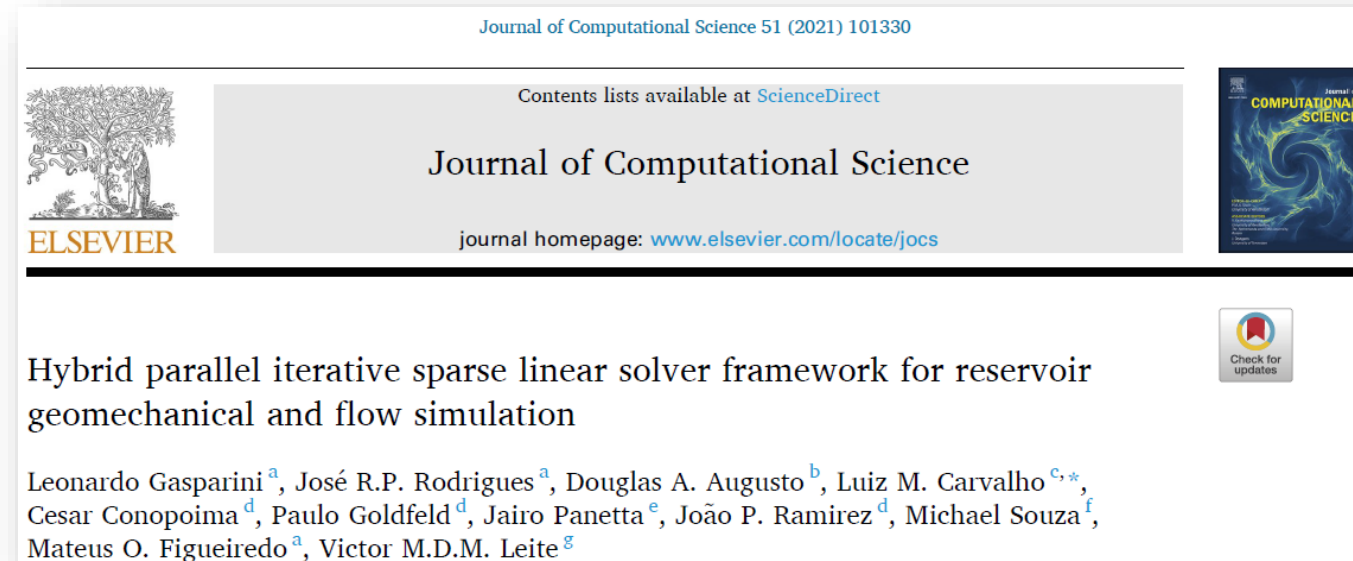
UFC



FIOCRUZ



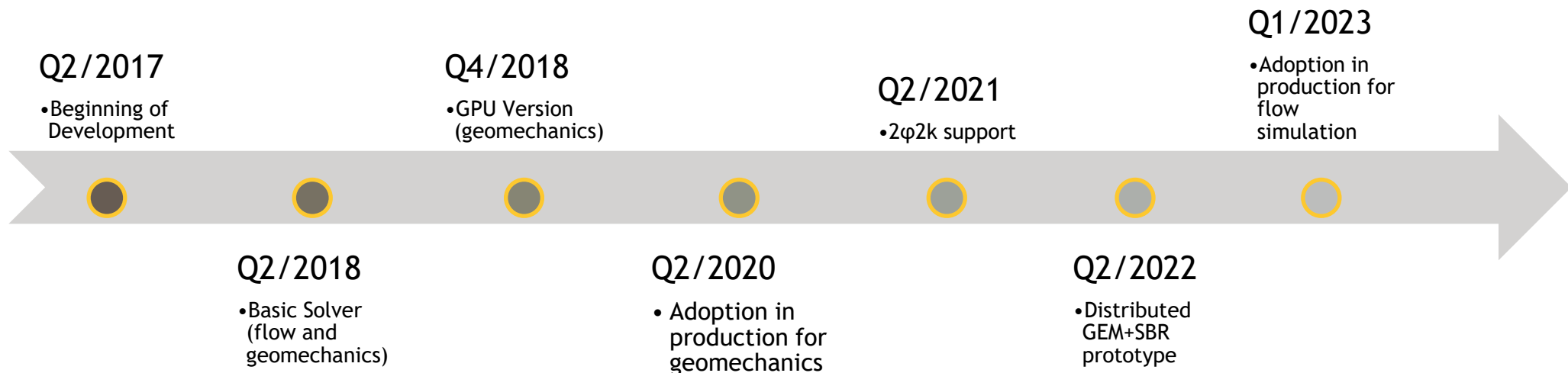
- High-performance **sparse linear solver** specialized for reservoir simulation applications developed in collaboration with academic institutions
- It aims to combine excellence in parallel computing with the most advanced algorithms of sparse linear algebra for flow and geomechanics problems





# SolverBR

- Implemented in C++, on top of Linux, targeting dedicated reservoir simulation HPC clusters
- It efficiently supports various parallelism models: shared memory, distributed memory, and hybrid models
- Continuous build processes run weekly tests with different software stack and options (e.g.: different C++ compilers, with and without MPI, OpenMP, etc.)



# SolverBR Algorithms

- Several matrix storage formats (e.g., scalar, blocked AIM)
- Several Krylov solvers (e.g., CG, GMRES, BiCGStab)
- Several preconditioners (e.g., ILU, AINV, CPR, Multiscale)
- Flexibility to combine and nest solvers and preconditioners

Scalar

x	x		x		
x	x	x		x	
	x	x	x		x
x		x	x	x	
	x		x	x	x
		x		x	x

Blocked  
(uniform  
block)

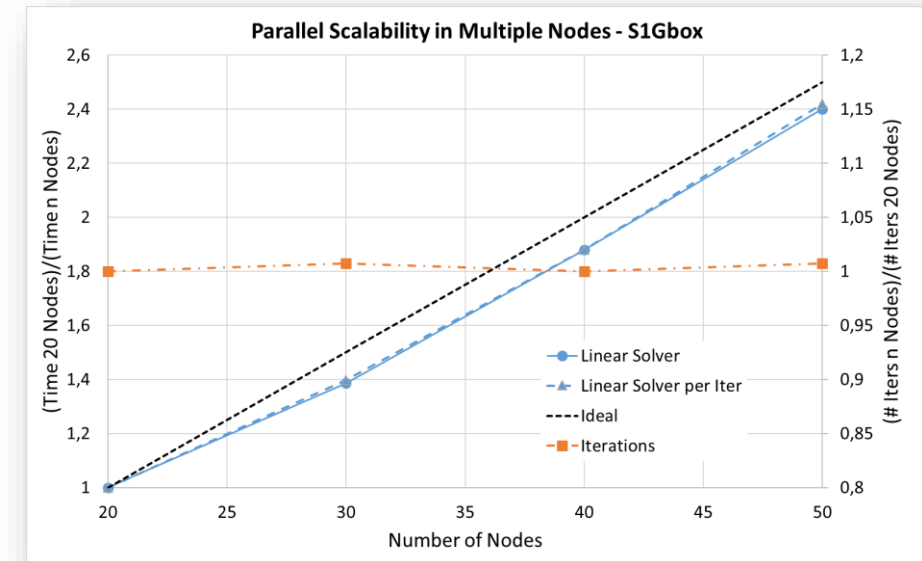
x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x					
x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x					
x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x					
x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x		
x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x		
x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x		
			x	x	x	x	x	x					x	x	x
			x	x	x	x	x	x					x	x	x
			x	x	x	x	x	x					x	x	x
x	x	x				x	x	x	x	x	x				
x	x	x				x	x	x	x	x	x				
x	x	x				x	x	x	x	x	x				
			x	x	x				x	x	x	x	x	x	x
			x	x	x				x	x	x	x	x	x	x
			x	x	x				x	x	x	x	x	x	x
						x	x	x				x	x	x	x
						x	x	x				x	x	x	x
						x	x	x				x	x	x	x

AIM  
(variable  
block)

x	x	x	x			x	x	x								
x	x	x	x			x	x	x								
x	x	x	x			x	x	x								
x	x	x	x	x	x						x	x	x			
				x	x	x	x	x	x						x	
x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
			x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
			x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
			x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
						x					x	x	x	x		

# Integration of SolverBR with GeomecBR

- In 2020, we incorporated new features into SolverBR to enable the implementation of the multiscale method
- This method is used as a preconditioner, leveraging a coarse system to accelerate the convergence of the original system
- Reduction in the number of iterations can reach up to 80%





# Integration of SolverBR with CMG

- Computer Modelling Group (CMG) is a software company specialized on reservoir simulation
- CMG's software suite includes industry-leading reservoir simulation tools such as IMEX, GEM and STARS
  - IMEX - Black Oil Reservoir Simulator
  - GEM - Compositional & Unconventional Simulator
  - STARS - Thermal & Advanced Processes Simulator
- Petrobras has a partnership with CMG for over 40 years!



# Other Computer Architectures

- Petrobras initiated a project with UFF University in 2023 to reduce Cloud HPC costs, specifically targeting reservoir simulation
  - It is worth considering alternative instances, such as ARM, which has demonstrated better price-performance for various applications

## MScheduler: Leveraging Spot Instances for High-Performance Reservoir Simulation in the Cloud

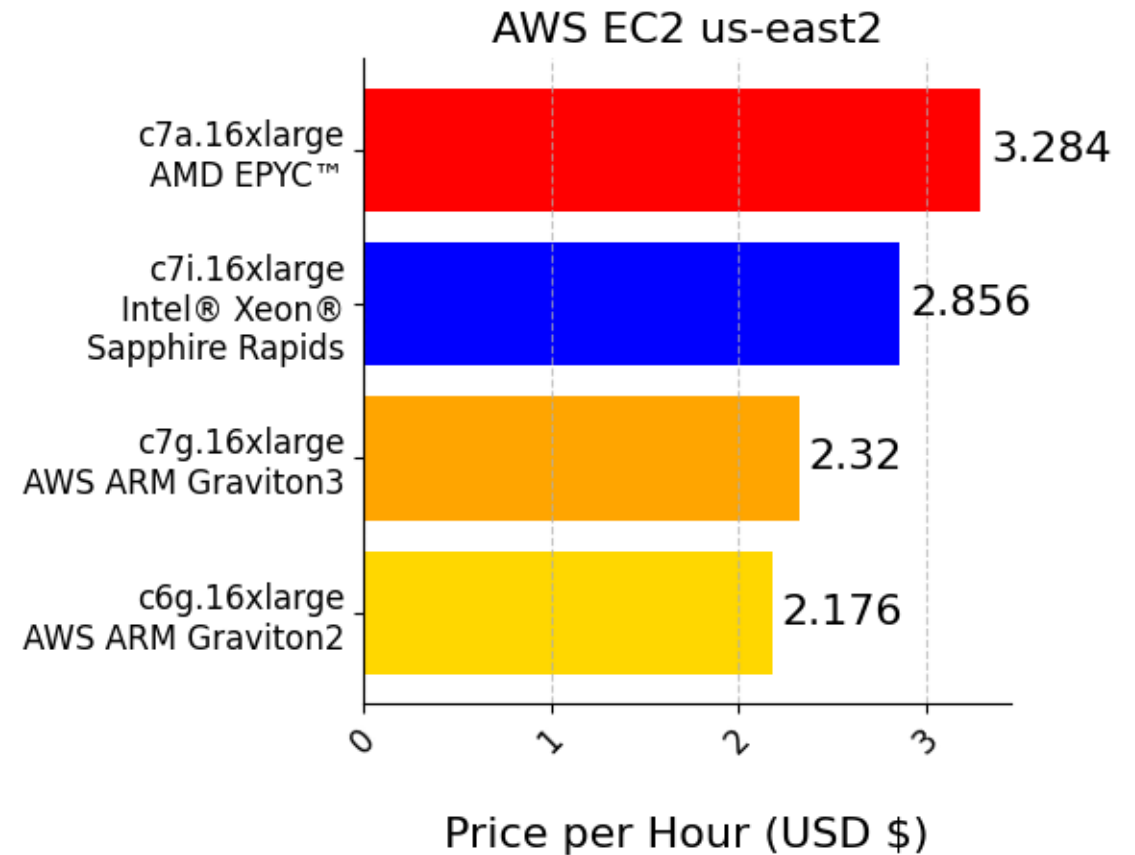
Felipe A. Portella<sup>\*†‡</sup>, Paulo J. B. Estrela<sup>\*</sup>, Renzo Q. Malini<sup>\*</sup>, Luan Teylo<sup>§¶</sup>,  
Josep L. Berral<sup>†‡</sup>, Lúcia M. A. Drummond<sup>¶</sup>

- Petrobras started the “blue sky” project in collaboration with Instituto CESAR to port the SolverBR code to the ARM platform

# Opportunity

- ARM architecture has gained attention in recent years
- To port SolverBR aiming to investigate numerical accuracy of ARM-based CPUs versus x86 for reservoir simulation
- Understanding the ARM price-performance in practice, both on the cloud and on-prem

Cloud Instances with 64 vCPUs





# The Journey

# The NVIDIA Grace CPU

The building block of the superchip

## High Performance Power Efficient Cores

72 flagship Arm Neoverse V2 Cores with  
SVE2 4x128b SIMD per core

## Fast On-Chip Fabric

**3.2 TB/s of bisection bandwidth** connects  
CPU cores, NVLink-C2C, memory, and system IO

## High-Bandwidth Low-Power Memory

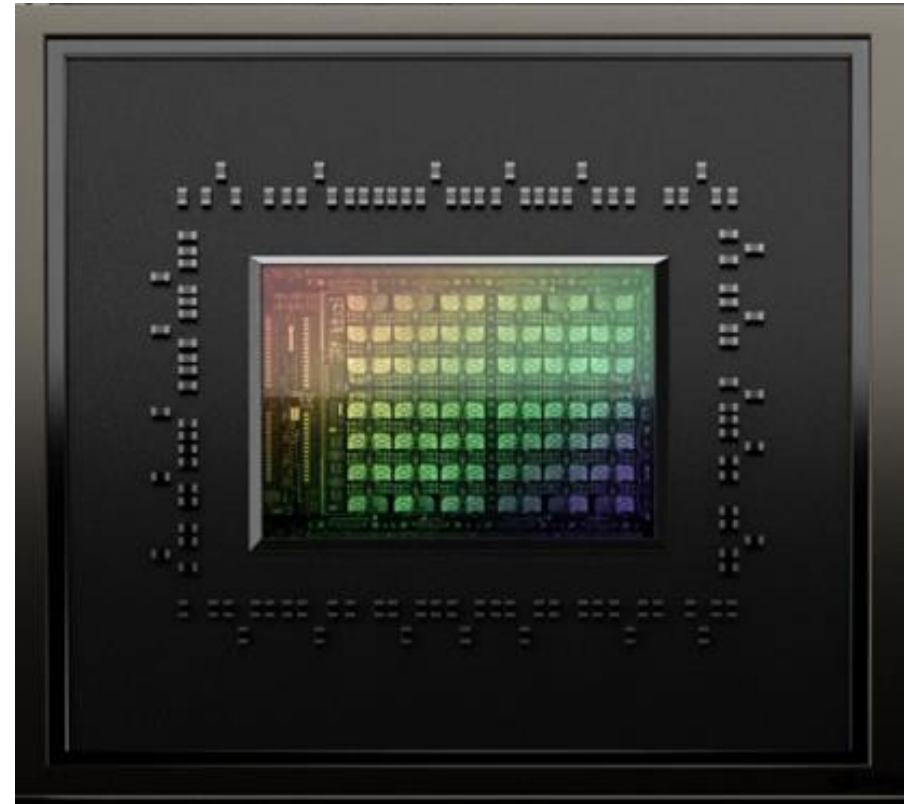
Up to 480 GB of data center enhanced LPDDR5X Memory that  
delivers up to 500 GB/s of memory bandwidth

## Coherent Chip-to-Chip Connections

NVLink-C2C with 900 GB/s bandwidth for coherent  
connection to CPU or GPU

## Industry Leading Performance Per Watt

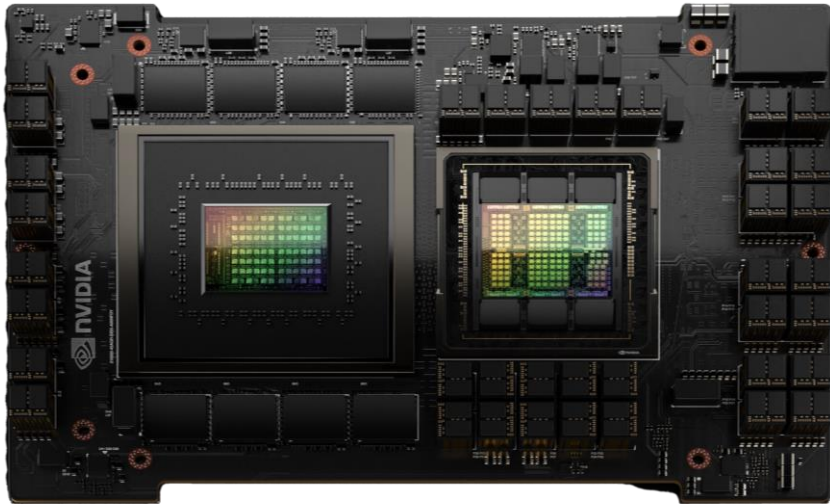
Up to 2X perf / W over today's leading servers



<https://www.nvidia.com/en-us/on-demand/session/gtcfall22-a41129/>

# One Powerful CPU – Two Superchip Configurations

Grace Hopper Superchip (GH200)  
More than “Grace + Hopper”



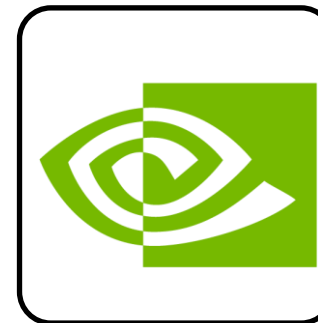
Grace CPU Superchip  
More than “2 x Grace”



# Use Standards-compliant Multi-platform Compilers

You're not porting to Arm. You're porting away from ifort, xlf, etc.

- Use any portable multi-platform compiler: NVIDIA, GCC, LLVM, etc.
- Use the most recent compiler possible. **GCC 12+** is strongly recommended.
- Beware of non-standard build systems
  - `icc`, `ifort`, `xlf`, etc. may be hard-coded into the build system
  - Be explicit about which compiler to use. Don't let the build system make assumptions
- Beware of non-standard default compilers
  - Check default compiler commands (`cc`, `fc`, `gcc`, etc.) invoke a recent compiler
  - Use ``mpicc -show`` to verify that MPI compiler wrappers invoke the right compiler
- Log the build, then check the log afterward

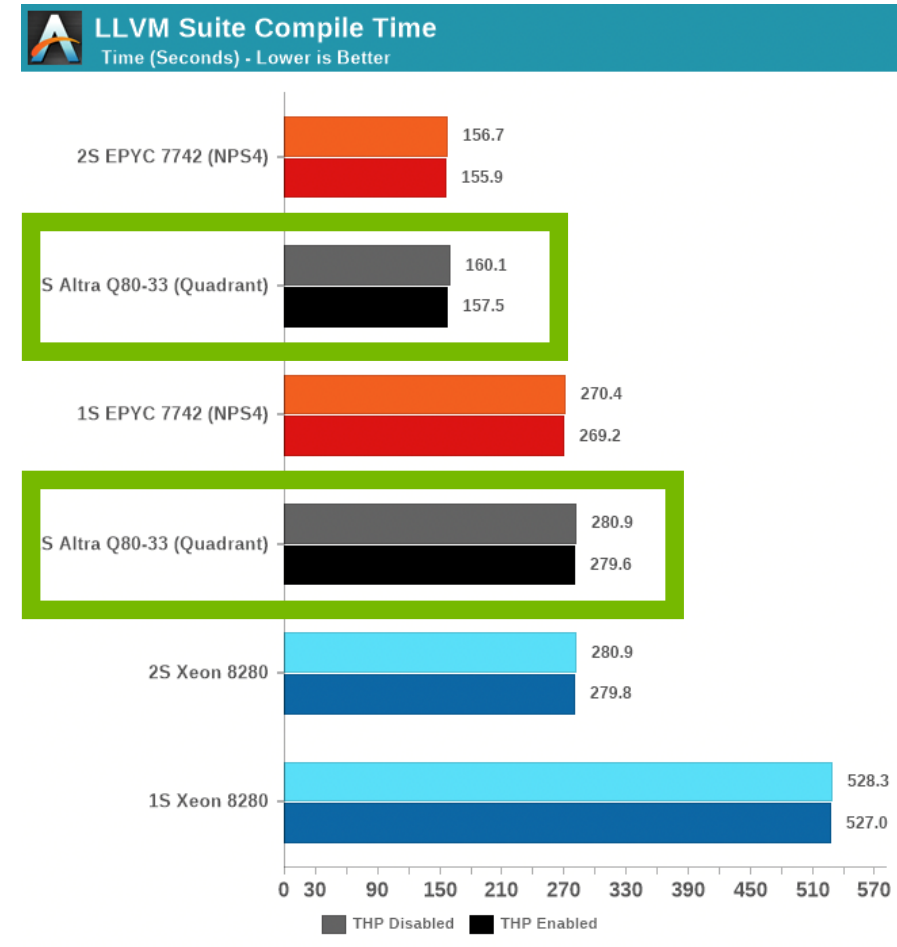




# No Cross Compiling! Just Don't.

All popular build systems are supported – and *performant* – on Arm

- GCC and LLVM are excellent Arm compilers
  - Auto-vectorizing, auto-parallelizing, tested, in production
  - Arm & partners are the majority of GCC contributors
- All major build systems and tools work on Arm
  - CMake, Make, GNUMake, EasyBuild, Spack etc.
- Compiler & build system performance is excellent
  - Ampere Altra compilation performance is on-par with AMD EPYC 7742 – **you do not need to cross compile**



<https://www.anandtech.com/show/16315/the-ampere-altra-review/8>

# Selecting GNU and LLVM Compiler Flags for Grace

Similar flags have different meanings across compilers and across platforms

- Remove all architecture-specific flags: `-mavx`, `-mavx2`, etc.
- Remove `-march` and `-mtune` flags
  - These flags have a different meaning on aarch64 [[details](#)]
- Use `-Ofast -mcpu=native`
  - If fast math optimizations are not acceptable, use `-O3 -ffp-contract=fast`
  - For even more accuracy, use `-ffp-contract=off` to disable floating point operation contraction (e.g. FMA)
  - Can also use `-mcpu=neoverse-v2`, but `-mcpu=native` will “port forward”
- Use `-flto` to enable link-time optimization
  - The benefits of link-time optimization vary from code to code, but can be significant [[details](#)]
- Apps may need `-fsigned-char` or `-funsigned-char` depending on the developer’s assumption.

# ARM Journey

## Building System Adjustments

- Added a new compile target for aarch64 architecture
  - Mapped compatible compile variables
- Initially used gcc for a “fair” and easier comparison
  - icc and nvc+ as next steps

Component	Version
Base Image	Ubuntu 22.04
Compiler	GCC 12.3
C++ libraries	Boost C++ v1.63.0
MPI	OpenMPI v4.1.4
BLAS	OpenBlas v0.3.20
LAPACK	LAPACK Lib v3.10.0

Architecture	Compiler Flags
x86_64	-std=c++17 -O3 -lrt -fPIC -m64 -march=native -mtune=native -fopenmp-simd -fopenmp
aarch64	-std=c++17 -O3 -lrt -fPIC -mcpu=native -fopenmp-simd -fopen

# ARM Journey

## Code Porting Adjustment

- Removed Intel Intrinsics
  - Evaluated SIMD and SSE2NEON as replacements
- Addressed synchronization issues that led to precision errors in floating-point calculation
- Other minor fixes and best practices adjustments

```
6  #ifndef __aarch64__
7  #include <xmmintrin.h>
8  #else
9  #include <utils/simd/sse2neon.h>
10 #endif
```

```
35 ALWAYS_INLINE void P2PNotify( const int task, volatile int * taskFinished )
36 {
37 #ifdef __aarch64__
38     OPENMP ( omp flush )
39     OPENMP ( omp atomic write )
40 #endif
41     taskFinished[ task ] = 1;
42 }
```

```
14 ALWAYS_INLINE void P2PWait( const int threadTask, const int * parentIndex,
15     const int * parents, const volatile int * taskFinished )
16 {
17     for ( int tIdx = parentIndex[ threadTask ]; tIdx < parentIndex[ threadTask + 1 ]; ++tIdx )
18     {
19 #ifdef __aarch64__
20         const int t = parents[ tIdx ];
21         int finished;
22         do
23         {
24             OPENMP ( omp flush )
25             OPENMP ( omp atomic read )
26             finished = taskFinished[ t ];
27         } while ( finished == 0 );
28 #else
29         const int t = parents[ tIdx ];
30         while ( taskFinished[ t ] == 0 ) PAUSE;
31 #endif
32     }
33 }
```

# ARM Journey

## Benchmarking Environment

- Singularity as the container engine.
- Single definition file, multiple containers.
- One “.sif” file for each CPU architecture.

```
Bootstrap: library
From: ubuntu:22.04

%post
apt-get update -y
DEBIAN_FRONTEND=noninteractive apt-get install -y
--no-install-recommends \
    build-essential \
    ca-certificates \
    cmake \
    cxxtest \
    git \
    libglib2.0-0 \
    htop \
    liblapack-dev \
    libopenblas-dev \
    libssl-dev \
    locales-all \
    vim \
    wget \
    zlib1g \
    zlib1g-dev
rm -rf /var/lib/apt/lists/*

# GNU compiler
%post
apt-get update -y
DEBIAN_FRONTEND=noninteractive apt-get install -y
--no-install-recommends \
    g++-12 \
    gcc-12 \
    gfortran-12
rm -rf /var/lib/apt/lists/*

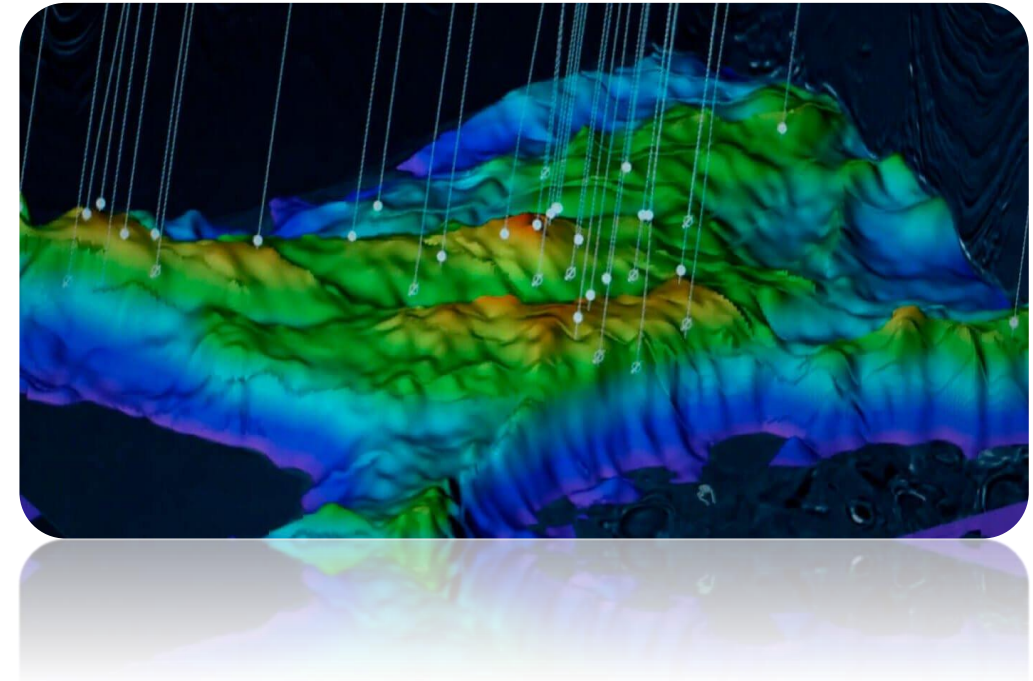
...
```



# Results and Discussion

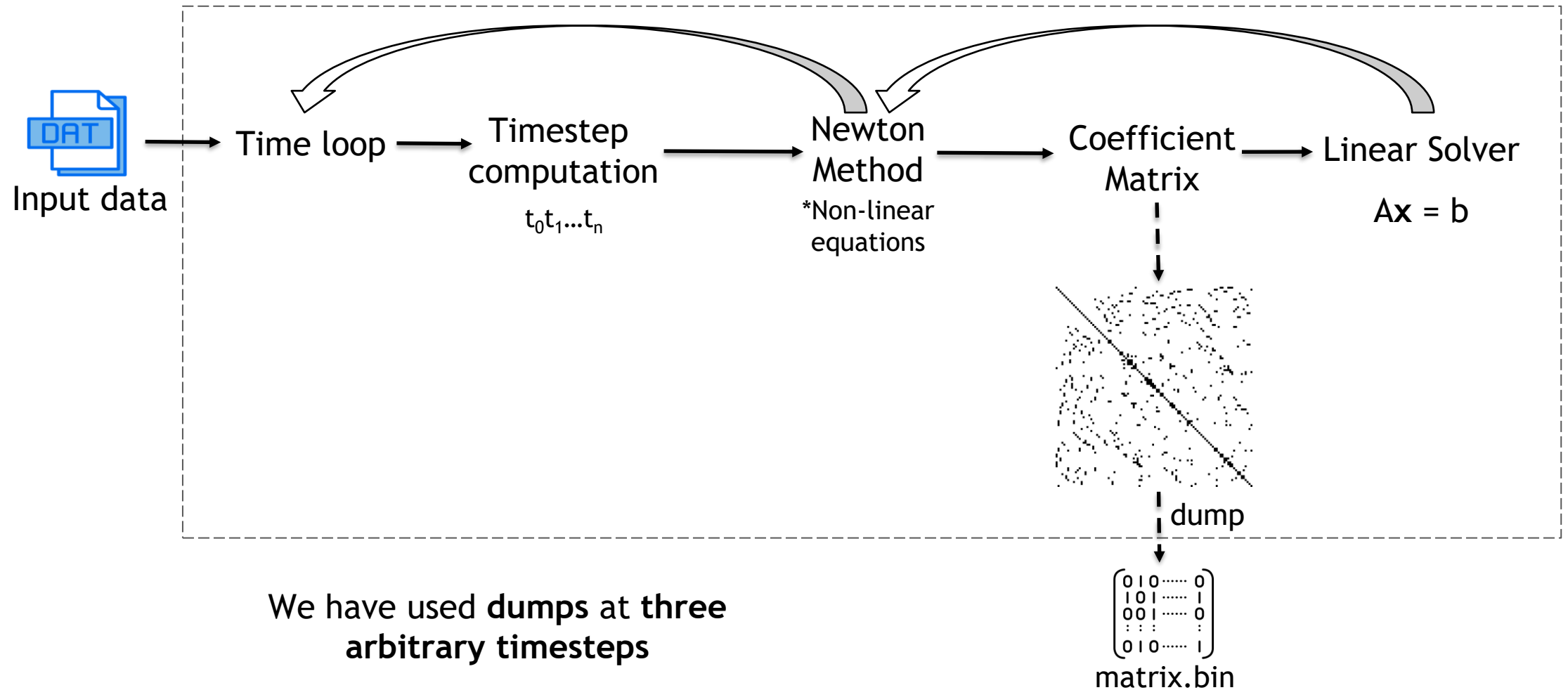
# Experiments Cases

- Matrices of 5 reservoirs with 3 different timesteps
  - SPE10
    - 10<sup>th</sup> SPE Comparative Solution Project
  - Búzios
    - Biggest ultra deep-water oil field of the world
  - Sapinhoá
    - PreSalt reservoir of Santos Basin
  - Proxy 100
    - Semi Synthetic Model with 100x100m cells
      - 6,245,051 active cells
  - Proxy 200
    - Semi Synthetic Model with 200x200m cells
      - 765,620 active cells



# Matrices dumps

## Reservoir simulation overview



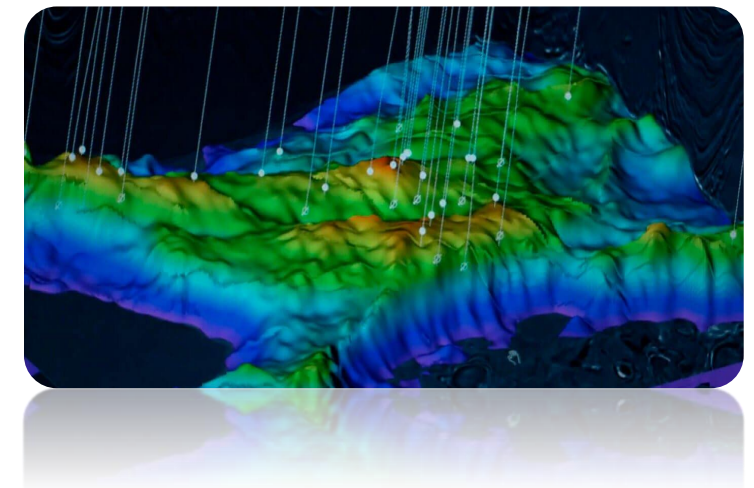
## Matrices characterization

Matrix	# Well Eq.	# IMPES Eq.	# FIM Eq.
Buzios	95	1.32M	51,640
Proxy100	43	6.24M	4,842
Proxy200	0	0.76M	127
SPE10	1	0.90M	187,303
Sapinhoa	19	0.51M	21,195

A high “# FIM Eq.” indicates that the matrix has a higher number of unknowns, increasing its complexity

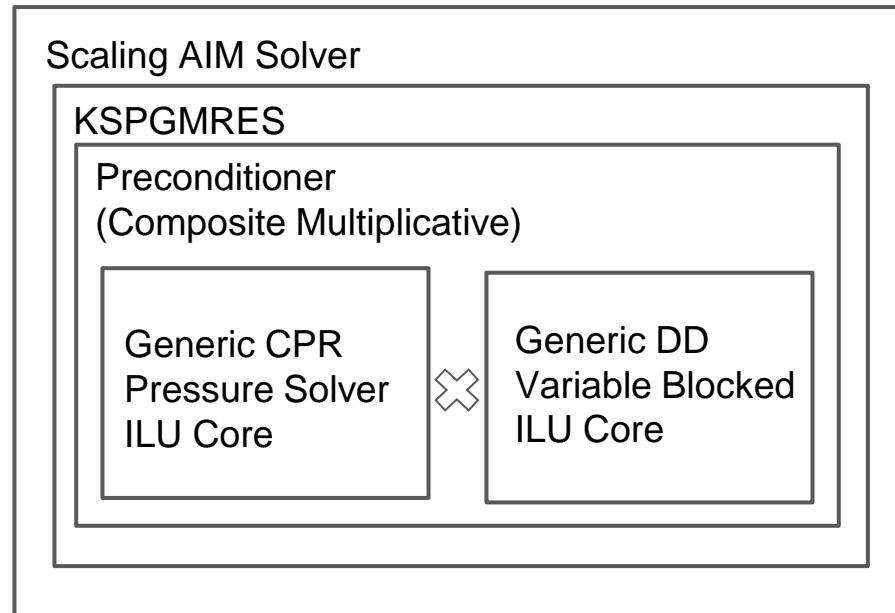
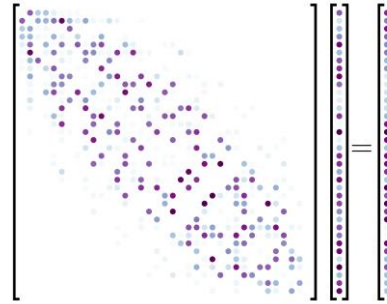
IMPES: Implicit Pressure (1 unknowns)

FIM: Full Implicit (1 + NC unknowns), where NC is the number of components of the simulated fluid

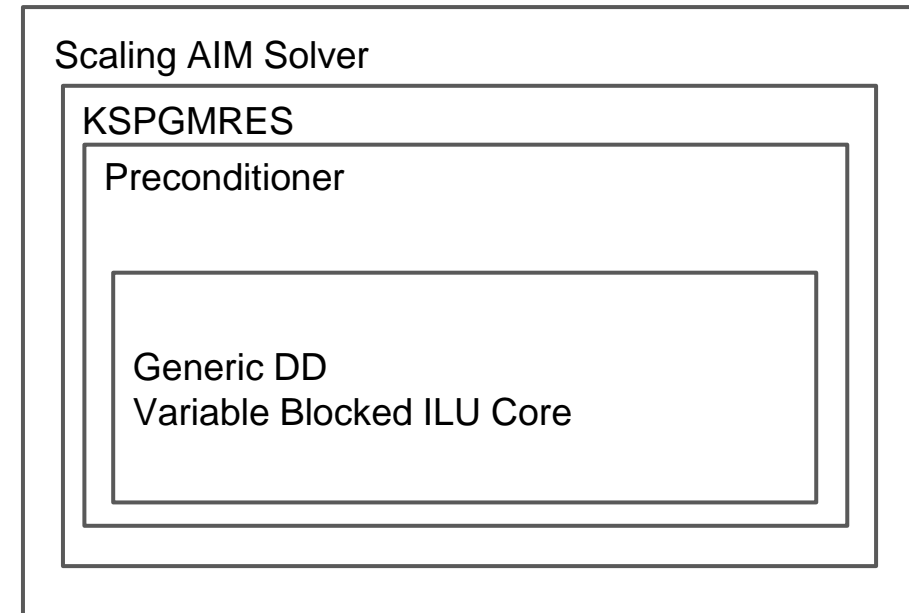


# Solver Algorithms

$$Ax = b$$



SPE10 Matrices



Buzios, Proxy100, Proxy200, and  
Sapinhua Matrices

*AIM: Adaptive Implicit Method*

*KSPGMRES: Krylov Subspace Projection Generalized Minimal Residual*

*CPR: Constrained Pressure Residual*

*DD: Domain Decomposition*

*ILU: Incomplete LU Factorization*

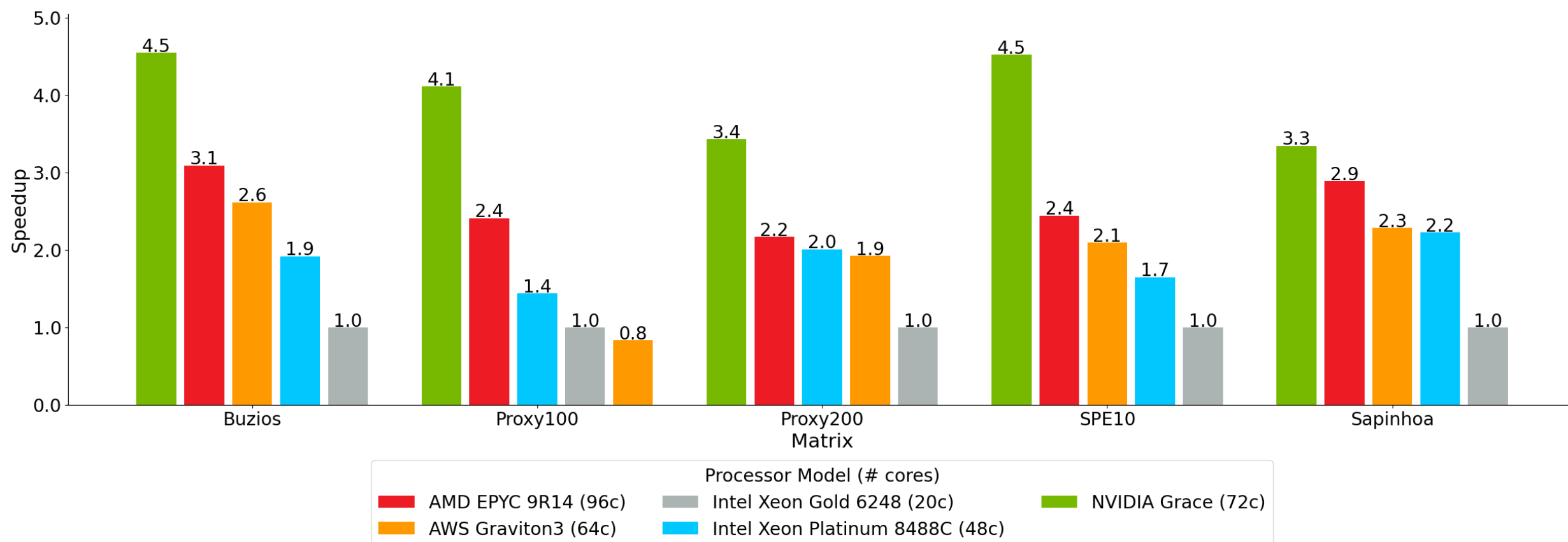


# Processors Specifications

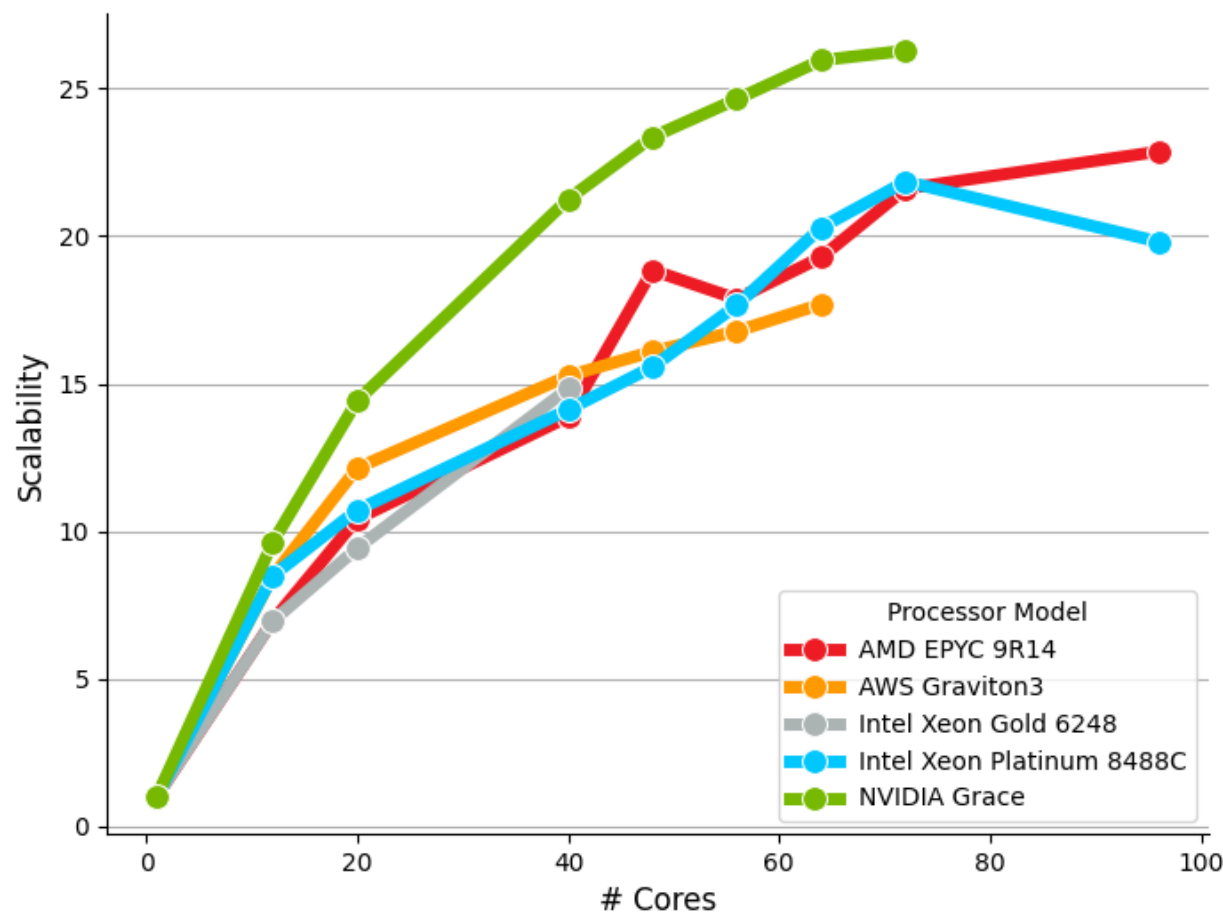
Environment	Processor	Architecture	Physical Cores
On-premises	Intel Xeon Gold 6248*	x86_64	20
AWS EC2 R7g	AWS Graviton3	ARMv8	64
On-premises	NVIDIA Grace	ARMv9	72
AWS EC2 R7i	Intel Xeon Platinum 8488C (Sapphire Rapids)	x86_64	48
AWS EC2 R7a	AMD EPYC 9684X (Genoa)	x86_64	96

\* Intel Xeon Gold 6248 is currently the main on-premises CPU cluster Petrobras Research Center (CENPES).

# Single-socket Speedups (max core-count)

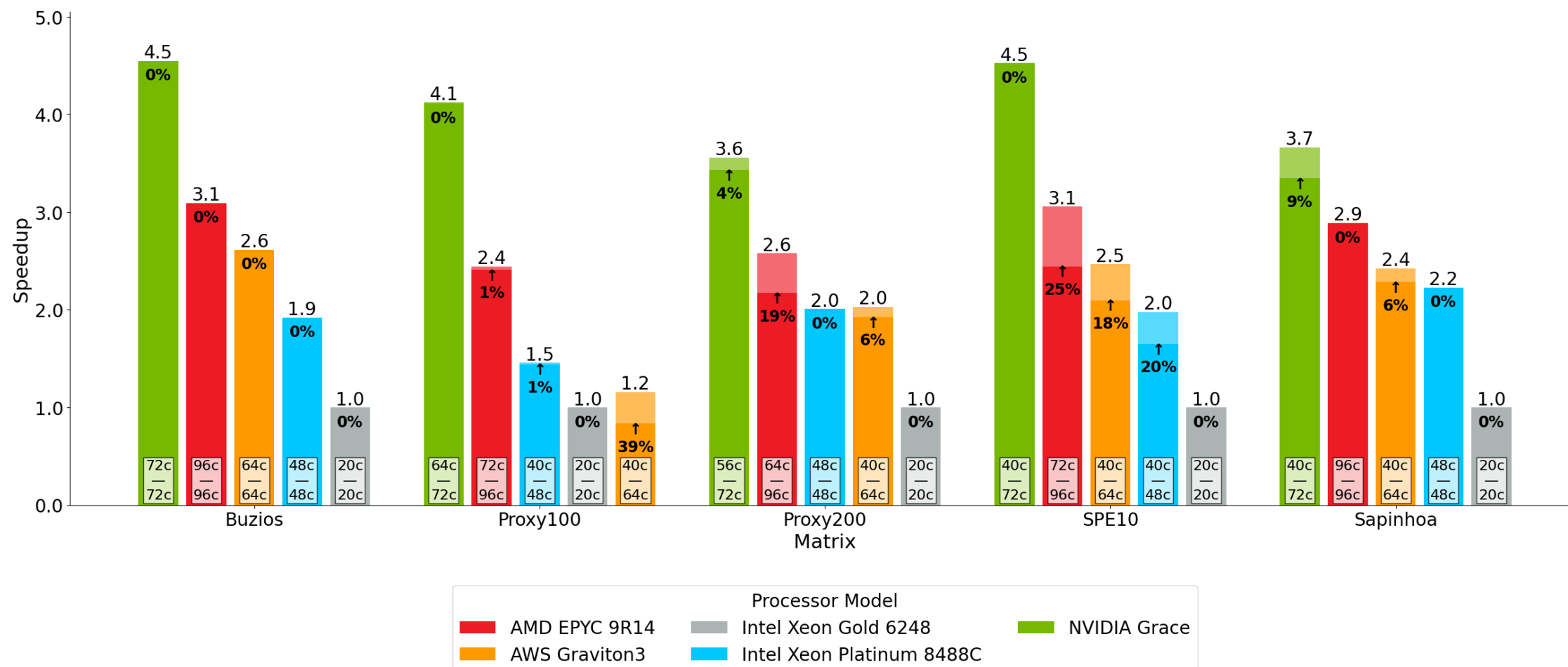


# Single-socket Solver Scalability – Búzios



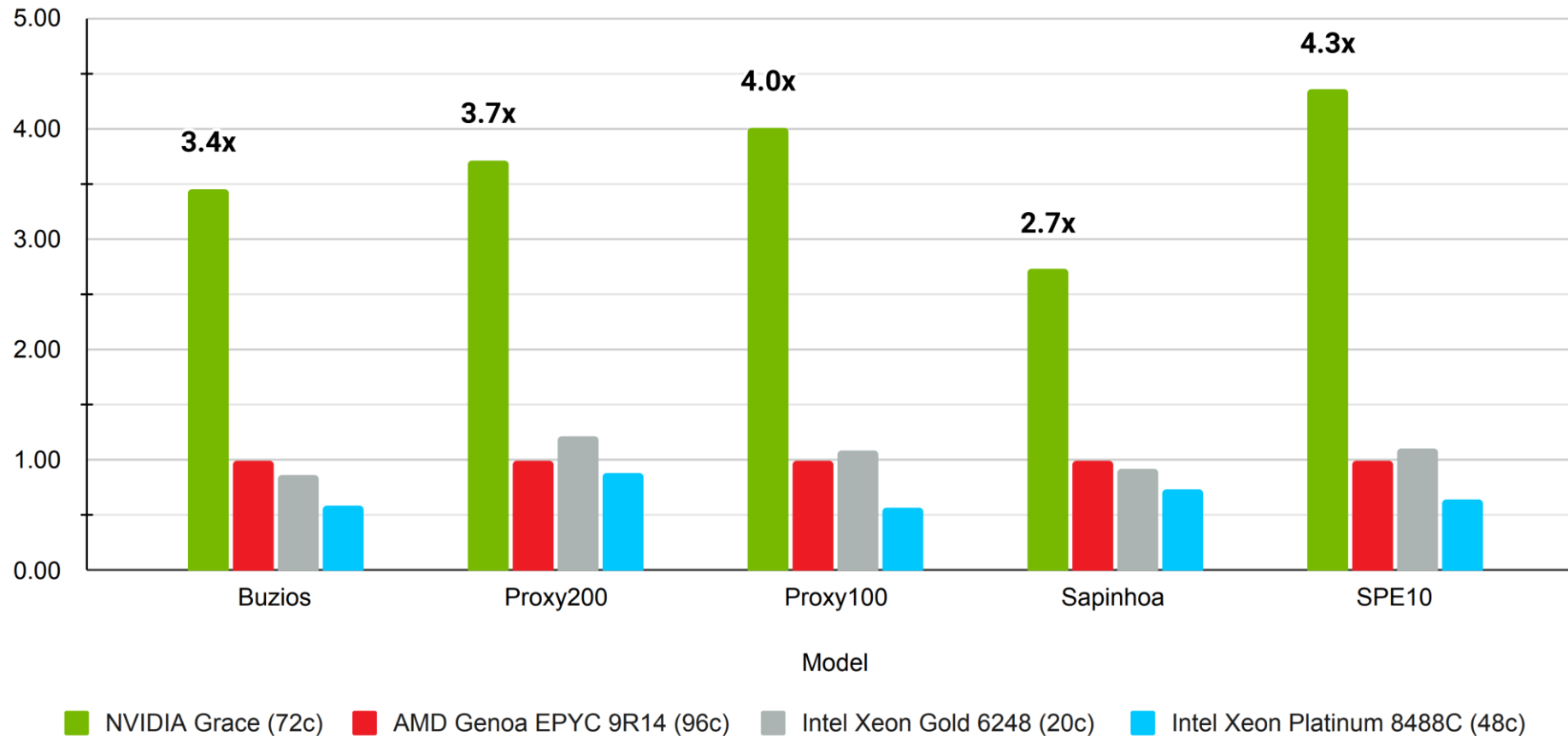
*The variation in the number of iterations ranged from 0 to 15% among all executions of the same reservoir model on a given processor.*

# Best Core-count Performance



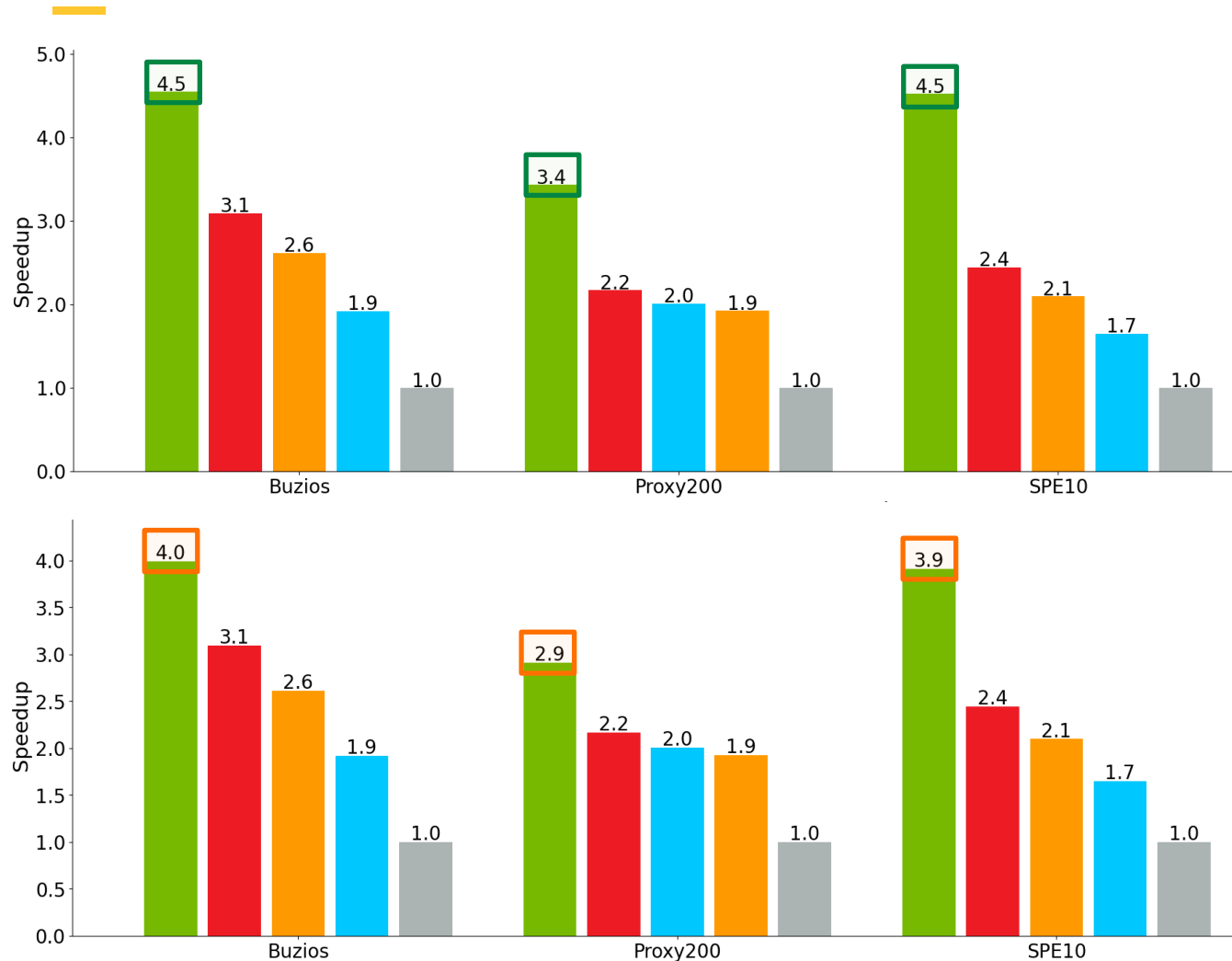
\*Average of 150 executions per matrix (considered 3 different timesteps)

# Estimated Energy Efficiency at Max Load





# Same Soc, Different Memory Capacity



Superchip	Capacity (GB)	OMP_NUM_THREADS	Expected TRIAD Bandwidth
Grace-Hopper	120	72	450+
Grace-Hopper	480	72	340+
Grace CPU	240	144	900+
Grace CPU	480	144	900+
Grace CPU	960	144	680+

<https://docs.nvidia.com/grace-performance-tuning-guide.pdf>

# Conclusions




Best ranked processors for the evaluated reservoir models

Processor	Búzios	Proxy100	Proxy200	SPE10	Sapinhoá
NVIDIA Grace	1	1	1	1	1
AMD EPYC 9R14	2	2	2	2	2
AWS Graviton3	3	4	3	3	3
Intel Xeon Platinum 8488C	4	3	4	4	4
Intel Xeon Gold 6248	5	5	5	5	5

\*This ranking considers the best performing processors for each evaluated matrix

# Conclusions

Best ranked processors for the evaluated reservoir models

Processor	Ranking	
NVIDIA Grace	1	
AMD EPYC 9R14	2	
AWS Graviton3	3	
Intel Xeon Platinum 8488C	4	
Intel Xeon Gold 6248	5	

\*This ranking considers the best performing processors for each evaluated matrix

## Conclusions & Future Works

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- ARM surprised with better performance, even without code optimization
- NVIDIA Grace gives the best out-of-the-box results among all tested processors

## Next Steps

- Port the end-to-end simulators
  - GeomecBR porting in process
- Evaluate code optimizations for ARM
  - Proofing and Tuning such as done for Intel<sup>®</sup> processors
- Evaluate other computer architectures, such as Grace Hopper
- Explore half-precision mixed calculation

# Broader Team Effort

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## Thank you, Cesarianos!

- **Luigi Fernando**
  - *Developer*
- **Vitor Aquino**
  - *Developer*
- **Fabiane Castro**
  - *Agile Master*

## Thank you, NVIDIAANS!

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