

Subsetix: Sparse 2D Geometry on GPU

From Set Algebra to AMR Simulation

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I. Context: GPU & Kokkos

Project Context — Towards Exascale

Background

- **Numpex Project:** French initiative pushing scientific computing to exascale
- **Samurai:** AMR library with unique sparse data structure (interval-based)
- **Challenge:** No prior GPU implementation of Samurai's core concepts

Objective

How can Samurai's strategy evolve for exascale?

- GPU acceleration (today's focus)
- Multi-node distribution (future work)

Approach

Proof of Concept Strategy

1. **Simplify** — Isolate core problems
2. **Prototype** — Build independent bricks
3. **Validate** — Test on real simulations
4. **Integrate** — Path back to Samurai

This work: GPU-native sparse 2D geometry as a standalone proof of concept

GPU Architecture — Massively Parallel

Execution Hierarchy

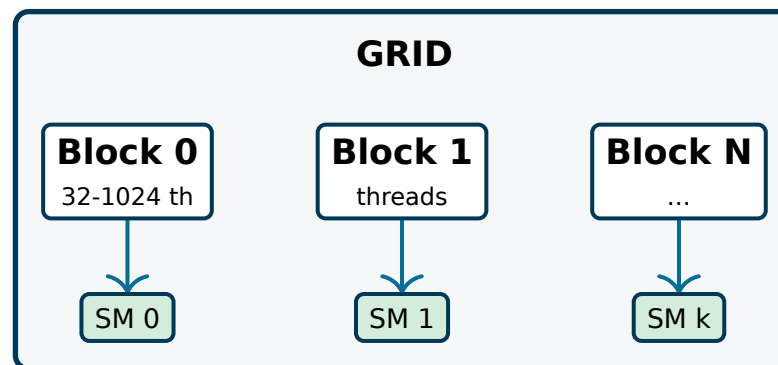


- **Warp** = 32 threads in **lockstep** (SIMT)
- **SM** = autonomous compute unit
- Multiple warps/SM → latency hiding

For Our Project

- **1 thread** = processes 1 Y row (or 1 cell)
- Thousands of rows → **saturate the GPU**

Execution Model



B200 vs EPYC 9965

	GPU B200	CPU EPYC 9965
Bandwidth	8 TB/s	576 GB/s
FP32	90 TFlops	14 TFlops

GPU: **14× more bandwidth** than CPU → ideal for large sparse meshes

Kokkos — Performance Portability

The Problem

- CUDA = NVIDIA only
- OpenMP = CPU only (limited GPU)
- HIP = AMD only
- Rewrite for each platform?

The Solution: Kokkos

```
// 1. COUNT – unknown result size
parallel_for(num_rows, KOKKOS_LAMBDA(int r) {
    counts[r] = count_intervals(r);
});
// 2. SCAN – compute offsets
exclusive_scan(counts, row_ptr);
// 3. FILL – parallel write
parallel_for(num_rows, KOKKOS_LAMBDA(int r) {
    fill_intervals(r, &out[row_ptr[r]]);
});
```

CUDA vs Kokkos

Native CUDA

```
double* d_data;
cudaMalloc(&d_data, n*8);

cudaMemcpy(d_data, h_data,
           n*8, HostToDevice);

kernel<<<B,T>>>(d_data, n);

cudaMemcpy(h_data, d_data,
           n*8, DeviceToHost);

cudaFree(d_data);
```

Kokkos

```
View<double*> data("d", n);
auto h = create_mirror_view(data);

deep_copy(data, h);

parallel_for(n, KOKKOS_LAMBDA(int i){
    data(i) = compute(i);
});

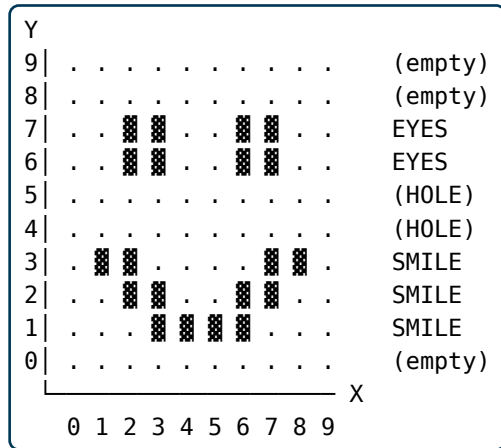
deep_copy(h, data);
// Automatic cleanup (RAII)
```

Single source code → compiles for OpenMP, CUDA, HIP, SYCL, Serial

II. Sparse Representation

Example: 2D Sparse Mesh with Intervals

“Smiley” Geometry :-)



CSR Representation

```
// 5 rows, HOLE Y=4,5
row_keys = [1, 2, 3, 6, 7] // skips 4,5!
num_rows = 5
```

```
// Rows with 1 or 2 intervals
row_ptr = [0, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9]
```

```
intervals = [
    {3, 7}, // Y=1: smile bottom
    {2, 4}, {6, 8}, // Y=2: smile thick
    {1, 3}, {7, 9}, // Y=3: smile corners
    {2, 4}, {6, 8}, // Y=6: EYES bottom
    {2, 4}, {6, 8}, // Y=7: EYES top
]
num_intervals = 9
```

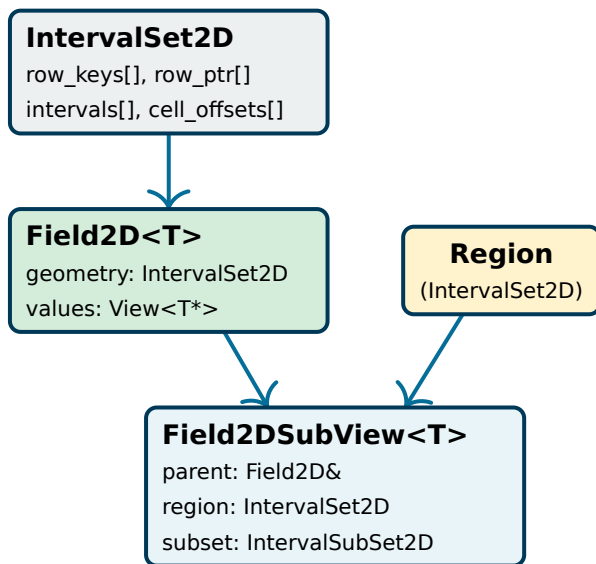
```
cell_offsets = [0, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20]
total_cells = 20
```

Hole Y=4,5: row_keys jumps from 3 to 6

III. Data Structures

Overview — Device Structures

Core Types



IntervalSubSet2D

```
struct IntervalSubSet2D {  
    IntervalSet2D parent;    // ref  
    interval_indices[];      // which intervals  
    x_begin[], x_end[];      // restricted range  
    row_indices[];           // Y coords  
};
```

SubView: Lazy Intersection

```
// Region = any IntervalSet2D  
IntervalSet2DDevice left_bc = make_box_device({0,2,0,ny});  
Field2DSubViewDevice<T> sub = make_subview(field, left_bc);
```

```
// First op: computes field.geo n region  
fill_subview_device(sub, T_inlet, &ctx);  
  
// Time loop: reuses cached intersection  
for (int step = 0; step < nsteps; ++step) {  
    fill_subview_device(sub, T_inlet); // fast  
}
```

SubView Operations

- `fill_subview_device(sub, val)`
- `scale_subview_device(sub, alpha)`
- `copy_subview_device(dst, src)`
- `apply_stencil_on_subview_device(...)`

Lazy: intersection computed on first use

Cached: reused for subsequent operations

IntervalSet2D — Complete CSR Structure

C++ Definition

```
template<class MemorySpace>
struct IntervalSet2D {
    // Y coordinates of non-empty rows
    View<RowKey2D*> row_keys; // [num_rows]

    // Index into intervals[] for each row
    View<size_t*> row_ptr;    // [num_rows + 1]

    // All intervals (contiguous)
    View<Interval*> intervals; // [num_intervals]

    // Linear cell offsets
    View<size_t*> cell_offsets; // [num_intervals]

    size_t total_cells;
    int num_rows;
    int num_intervals;
};
```

Invariants

- row_keys sorted by increasing Y
- Intervals sorted by X within each row
- No overlap between intervals
- $\text{row_ptr}[r+1] - \text{row_ptr}[r] = \text{nb intervals row } r$

Template MemorySpace: Device or Host


Field2D — Field on Sparse Geometry

Definition

Associates a **value** with each sparse cell

```
template<class T, class MemorySpace>
struct Field2D {
    IntervalSet2D geometry; // Geometry ref
    View<T*> values;        // [total_cells]
};
```

Memory Layout

Geometry:	
values[]:	[v0 v1 v2 v3 v4 v5 v6]
	↑ ↑ ↑
offsets:	0 2 4

Contiguous values → cache-friendly

Cell Access

```
// O(1) - when interval index known
T val = field.at(interval_idx, x);

// O(log R + log I) - by coordinates
// (binary search on Y, then X)
bool ok = accessor.try_get(x, y, val);
```

Usage

```
Field2DDevice<double> rho(fluid_geo);
fill_field_device(rho, 1.0);
auto rho_host = to_host(rho); // I/O
```

SubSet — Targeted Region Operations

Structure

```
struct IntervalSubSet2D {
    IntervalSet2D parent; // ref to Field geo
    interval_indices[]; // which intervals
    x_begin[], x_end[]; // restricted range
    row_indices[]; // Y row in parent
    num_entries;
};
```

Usage

```
// Build subset (intersection)
build_interval_subset(
    field.geometry, mask, subset, &ctx);

// Operations on subset only
fill_on_subset(field, subset, 0.0);

// Iteration: O(1) access per entry
for (e = 0; e < num_entries; ++e) {
    int iv = interval_indices[e];
    for (x = x_begin[e]; x < x_end[e]; ++x)
        field.at(iv, x) = ...; // O(1)
}
```

1D Example: Intersection

Parent:	[==A==]	[==B==]	[==C==]
idx:	0	1	2
	0 8 12	18 22	30
Mask:	[=====M=====]		
	5		25
SubSet:	[=]	[==B==]	[=]
	5 8 12	18 22 25	
	↑	↑	↑
entry:	0	1	2

SubSet = references to Parent

entry	interval_idx	x_begin	x_end
0	0 (A)	5	8
1	1 (B)	12	18
2	2 (C)	22	25

No data copy — just indices + bounds

Field2DSubView — View on Field + Region

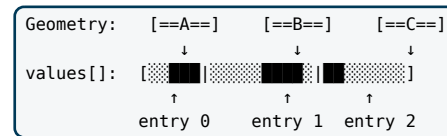
Structure

```
struct Field2DSubView<T> {  
    Field2D<T> parent;           // ref to field  
    IntervalSet2D region;        // where to operate  
    IntervalSubSet2D subset;     // lazy intersection  
};
```

Lazy Pattern

```
// 1. Create (no computation)  
auto sub = make_subview(field, region);  
// sub.subset is empty  
  
// 2. First op with ctx → triggers build  
fill_subview_device(sub, 0.0, &ctx);  
// sub.subset = field.geo n region  
  
// 3. Next ops reuse cached subset  
scale_subview_device(sub, 2.0); // fast!  
fill_subview_device(sub, 1.0); // fast!
```

Memory Mapping



⬜ = skipped ■ = accessed by SubSet

Access Formula

`values[offset[idx] + (x - interval.begin)]`

O(1) per cell — no coordinate lookup

Workspace & AMR Support

UnifiedCsrWorkspace

Pool of reusable buffers

```
struct UnifiedCsrWorkspace {  
    View<int*> int_bufs_[5];  
    View<size_t*> size_t_bufs_[2];  
    View<RowKey2D*> row_key_bufs_[2];  
    View<Interval*> interval_buf_0;  
  
    auto get_int_buf(int id, size_t n) {  
        if (n > int_bufs_[id].extent(0))  
            Kokkos::resize(int_bufs_[id], n*1.5);  
        return subview(int_bufs_[id], {0,n});  
    }  
};
```

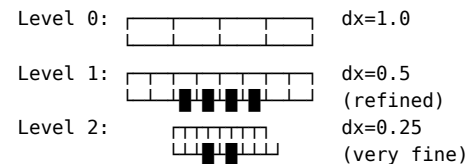
Avoids repeated GPU allocations
Crucial for chained operations

Note: Outputs must be pre-allocated
Use `allocate_interval_set_device()`

MultilevelGeo (AMR)

Multi-resolution grids

```
template<class MemorySpace>  
struct MultilevelGeo {  
    double origin_x, origin_y;  
    double root_dx, root_dy;  
    int num_active_levels;  
    Array<GeoView, 16> levels;  
  
    double dx_at(int level) {  
        return root_dx / (1 << level);  
    }  
};
```



IV. Algorithms

Binary Search — $O(\log n)$ Lookups Everywhere

CSR Requires Sorted Data

All lookups rely on binary search:

1. Find row by Y coordinate

```
int find_row_by_y(row_keys, num_rows, y) {  
    // Binary search in row_keys[]  
    return lower_bound(row_keys, y);  
}
```

$O(\log R)$ — R = number of rows

2. Find interval by X coordinate

```
int find_interval_by_x(intervals, begin, end, x) {  
    // Binary search in intervals[begin..end]  
    return lower_bound(intervals, x);  
}
```

$O(\log I_{\text{row}})$ — I = intervals in row

Combined: Cell Lookup

```
bool try_get(Coord x, Coord y, T& out) {  
    // Step 1: find row  
    int row = find_row_by_y(row_keys, y);  
    if (row < 0) return false;  
  
    // Step 2: find interval in row  
    int iv = find_interval_by_x(  
        intervals, row_ptr[row], row_ptr[row+1], x);  
    if (iv < 0) return false;  
  
    // Step 3: compute offset  
    out = values[offsets[iv] + (x - intervals[iv].begin)];  
    return true;  
}
```

Total: $O(\log R + \log I)$

Invariant: Data must stay sorted!
(enforced by construction)

Set Algebra — Binary Operations

CsrSetAlgebraContext

```
struct CsrSetAlgebraContext {
    UnifiedCsrWorkspace workspace;
    // Pool of reusable GPU buffers:
    // - int_bufs_[5], size_t_bufs_[2]
    // - row_key_bufs_[2], interval_buf_
    // Auto-grows on demand, never shrinks
};
```



Same ctx reused → **zero allocations** after warmup

Complete Example

```
CsrSetAlgebraContext ctx; // create once
```

```
auto domain = make_box_device({0,400,0,160});
auto obstacle = make_disk_device({80,80,20});
```

```
auto fluid = allocate_interval_set_device(
    domain.num_rows,
    domain.num_intervals + obstacle.num_intervals);
```

```
set_difference_device(domain, obstacle, fluid, ctx);
```

Chaining with Buffer Reuse

```
CsrSetAlgebraContext ctx;
```

```
// Pre-allocate output buffers ONCE
```

```
auto set1 = allocate_interval_set_device(512, 2048);
auto set2 = allocate_interval_set_device(512, 2048);
```

```
// Compute: set1 = A ∪ B
```

```
set_union_device(A, B, set1, ctx);
```

```
// Compute: set2 = set1 \ C
```

```
set_difference_device(set1, C, set2, ctx);
```

```
// ... use set2 (e.g., create Field2D on it) ...
```

```
// Later: reuse same buffers!
```

```
set_intersection_device(D, E, set1, ctx); // set1 reused
```

```
set_union_device(set1, F, set2, ctx); // set2 reused
```

Allocate once → reuse for entire simulation

ctx + set1 + set2: zero GPU malloc in hot loop

Row Mapping — Why and How

GPU Constraint

1 thread = 1 output row

We need to know output rows **before** parallel processing.

Which Rows Participate?

A: 2 5 8

B: 3 5 8 9

Op	Output rows	Count
$A \cap B$	{5, 8}	2
$A \cup B$	{2, 3, 5, 8, 9}	5
$A \setminus B$	{2}	1

Row Mapping per Operation

Intersection — rows in both A and B

```
// Binary search A rows in B
map[i] = binary_search(B.row_keys, A.row_keys[i]);
// Keep only matched rows (map[i] >= 0)
```

Union — rows in A or B (merge sorted)

```
// 1. Search A-B and B-A
// 2. Flag-Scan-Compact: extract B-only rows
// 3. Interleave A + B-only maintaining order
```

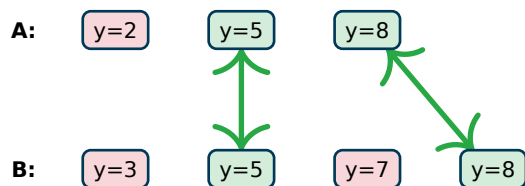
Difference — rows in A (check B for each)

```
// Output = A.row_keys (same structure)
// map[i] = search A.row_keys[i] in B
// If found: must subtract intervals
```

Result: output row list + per-row mapping
→ enables `parallel_for(num_output_rows, ...)`

Intersection — How It Works

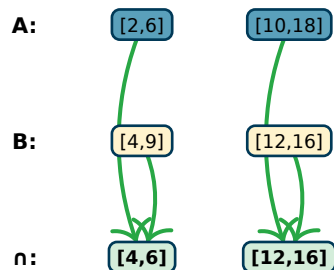
Phase 1: Row Mapping



Binary search: $O(\log n)$ per row

Phase 2: Interval Merge (per row)

Row $y=5$ — 2 intervals each



$O(n+m)$ sweep — $\max(\text{begin}), \min(\text{end})$

GPU Pattern: Count-Scan-Fill

Why? GPU threads can't dynamically allocate — output size must be known before parallel write.



1. COUNT — how many intervals per row?

```
row_counts[i] = count_intersect(A[i], B[i])
```

Parallel per row — don't write yet

2. SCAN — where does each row start?

```
row_ptr = exclusive_scan(row_counts)
```

Prefix sum \rightarrow $\text{row_ptr}[i]$ = write offset

3. FILL — write results at known offsets

```
fill_intersect(A[i], B[i], out, row_ptr[i])
```

Parallel per row — no conflicts!

Same pattern for u, \setminus, \oplus

Stencil Access — Sparse Geometry

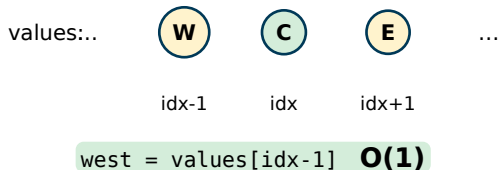
The Problem

On dense grid: `north = values[i + nx]`

On sparse CSR: row `y+1` may not exist, or have different intervals!

Horizontal: Easy

Same interval → contiguous in memory

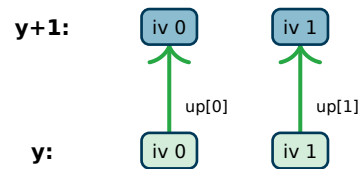


Vertical: Pre-computed Mapping

```
struct VerticalIntervalMapping {  
    View<int*> up_interval;  
    View<int*> down_interval;  
};
```

Built once, maps each interval to its neighbor in $y \pm 1$

Vertical Mapping Diagram



Condition: same interval count per row

Access North

```
int up_idx = up_interval[center_idx];  
Interval iv = intervals[up_idx];  
size_t off = offsets[up_idx] + (x - iv.begin());  
return values[off]; // O(1)
```

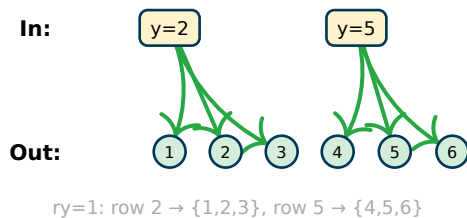
User Interface

```
// Stencil functor receives:  
CsrStencilPoint<T> p;  
p.center(); p.west(); p.east();  
p.north(); p.south(); // All O(1)
```

Expand (Dilation) — How It Works

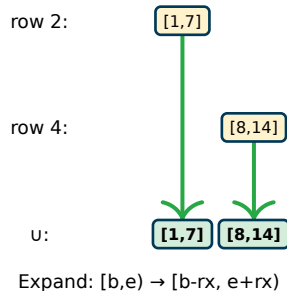
Phase 1: Row Mapping

Input row $y \rightarrow$ output rows $[y-ry, y+ry]$



Phase 2: N-way Union (per row)

Output row $y=3$ — inputs: rows 2,3,4



Interval Expansion

Original:

[4,8]

$rx=2$:

[2,10]

$[begin-rx, end+rx)$

GPU Pattern: Count \rightarrow Scan \rightarrow Fill

1. COUNT — N-way union count

```
row_counts[i] = n_way_union_count(  
    rows[map_start[i]..map_end[i]], rx);
```

2. SCAN

```
row_ptr = exclusive_scan(row_counts);
```

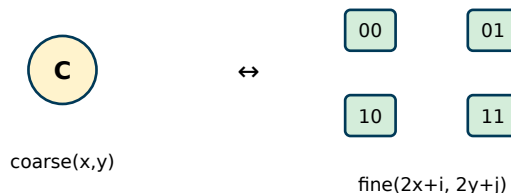
3. FILL — N-way union write

```
n_way_union_fill(  
    rows[map_start[i]..map_end[i]], rx,  
    out, row_ptr[i]);
```

Shrink: N-way $n, [b+rx, e-rx)$

AMR — Restrict & Prolong

Coordinate Mapping (2:1)



Restrict (Fine → Coarse)

```
coarse[x,y] = 0.25 * (
    fine[2x,  2y ] + fine[2x+1, 2y ] +
    fine[2x,  2y+1] + fine[2x+1, 2y+1]
);
```

Average of 4 fine cells → 1 coarse cell

Floor/Ceil for Negative Coords

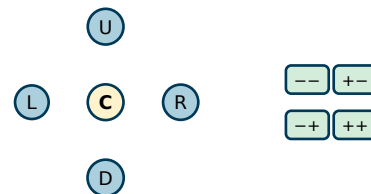
```
// Handles negative coordinates correctly
floor_div2(x) = (x>=0) ? x/2 : (x-1)/2;
ceil_div2(x)  = (x>=0) ? (x+1)/2 : x/2;
// Example: floor div2(-3) = -2, not -1
```

Prolong (Coarse → Fine)

1. Injection (simple copy)

```
fine[x,y] = coarse[x/2, y/2];
```

2. Linear Prediction (with gradients)



```
grad_x = 0.125 * (R - L);
grad_y = 0.125 * (U - D);
sign_x = (x%2==0) ? -1 : +1;
sign_y = (y%2==0) ? -1 : +1;
fine = C + sign_x*grad_x + sign_y*grad_y;
```

O(1) per cell with pre-computed mapping

Field Operations

Basic Operations

```
// Algebra & reductions
field_add_device(a, b, result);
T dot = field_dot_device(a, b);

// 5-point stencil (W, C, E, S, N)
apply_csr_stencil_on_set_device(
    dst, src, region,
    KOKKOS_LAMBDA(CsrStencilPoint p) {
        return 0.25 * (p.west + p.east
                       + p.south + p.north);
    });
```

AMR: Restrict & Prolong

```
// Fine → Coarse (average 4 cells)
restrict_field_device(fine, coarse);

// Coarse → Fine (interpolation)
prolong_field_device(coarse, fine);
```

Threshold: Field → Geometry

```
// Select cells where |value| > epsilon
IntervalSet2DDevice active =
    threshold_field(field, epsilon);
// Use case: detect shock, refine there
```

Remap: Change Geometry

```
// Project src onto dst geometry
// (overlap → copy, else → default)
remap_field_device(src, dst, default_val);
```

```
src geo: ██████████
dst geo:  ....
result:   .... ██████████
           copy ↑   ↑ default
```


Mathematical Morphology & AMR

Dilation / Erosion

```
// N-way union with ±radius offset  
row_n_way_union_impl(rows[], radius, out)
```

```
// N-way intersection with shrink  
row_n_way_intersection_impl(rows[], r, out)
```

Original: 
Dilate(1):  (+1 sides)
Erode(1):  (-1 sides)





2D Extension

- Consider rows $y-r$ to $y+r$
- Merge with N-way operation
- Implicit structuring element (square)



AMR Operations

```
// Coarsening: fine → coarse  
build_row_coarsen_mapping(fine, ws)  
// y_coarse = y_fine / 2, merge X
```

```
// Refinement: coarse → fine  
refine_level_up_device(coarse, ws)  
// [a,b) → [2a, 2b), double Y
```

Fine (level 1):
Y=3: 
Y=2: 
Y=1: 
Y=0: 

→

Coarse (level 0):
Y=1:  (merge Y=2,3)
Y=0:  (merge Y=0,1)

Field Transfer

```
// Projection fine → coarse (average)  
// Prolongation coarse → fine (interp)  
build_amr_interval_mapping(coarse, fine)
```

V. Demo

Mach2 Cylinder — Multi-Level AMR Simulation

Description

2D compressible flow simulation:

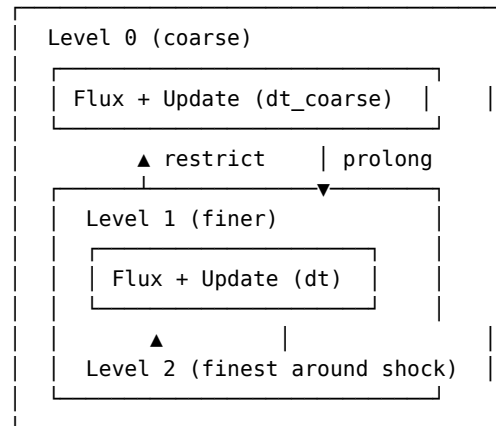
- **Mach 2** supersonic around a cylinder
- 1st order Godunov scheme + Rusanov flux
- **Dynamic AMR**: 4 levels

Subsetix Usage

```
// Fluid geometry = domain - obstacle
auto fluid = set_difference_device(
    make_box_device(domain),
    make_disk_device(cylinder),
    ctx);
```

```
// Conserved fields (ρ, p, u, v, E)
Field2DDevice<Real> rho(fluid);
Field2DDevice<Real> rho_u(fluid);
// ...
```

AMR Architecture



Dynamic Refinement

- Indicator: density gradient
- `expand_device()` for guard zones
- Remeshing every N time steps

Mach2 Cylinder — Results & Visualization

Generated Outputs

```
mach2_cylinder/  
├─ fluid_geometry.vtk  
├─ obstacle_geometry.vtk  
├─ refine_mask_lvl{1,2,3}.vtk  
├─ fine_geometry_lvl{1,2,3}.vtk  
├─ step_00001_density.vtk  
├─ step_00001_l0_density.vtk  
├─ step_00001_l1_density.vtk  
├─ step_00001_mach.vtk  
├─ step_00001_pressure.vtk  
└─ ...
```

Execution Command

```
./mach2_cylinder \  
--nx 400 --ny 160 \  
--radius 20 \  
--mach-inlet 2.0 \  
--max-steps 5000 \  
--output-stride 50 \  
--amr --amr-levels 4
```

Observed Phenomena

- **Bow shock** in front of the cylinder
- Density/pressure gradient captured
- AMR refinement follows the shock

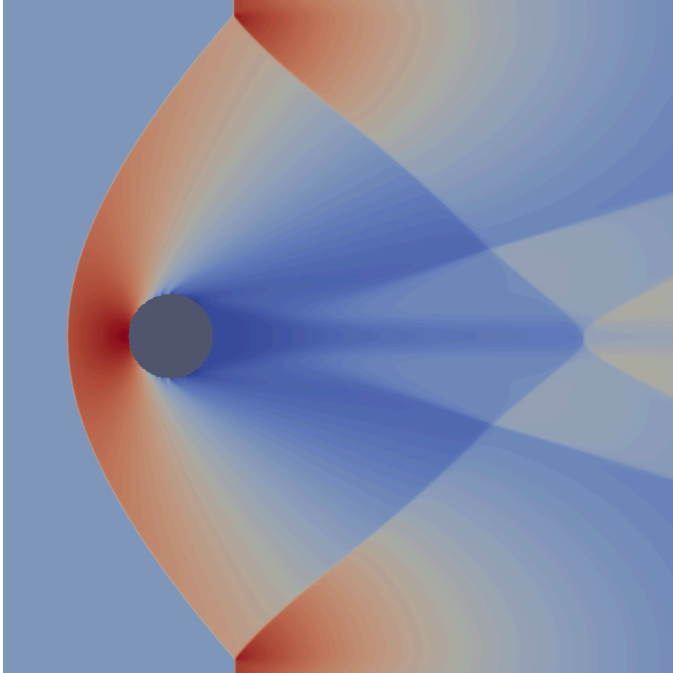
Key Technical Points

- 1st order Godunov + Rusanov flux
- Struct-of-Arrays: ConservedFields (ρ , pu , pv , E)
- `threshold_field()` → detect shock gradient
- `expand_device()` → guard cells around refined zone
- `restrict_fine_to_coarse()` / `prolong_guard_from_coarse()`
- `write_multilevel_field_vtk()` for ParaView

Sparse: computation only on fluid cells!

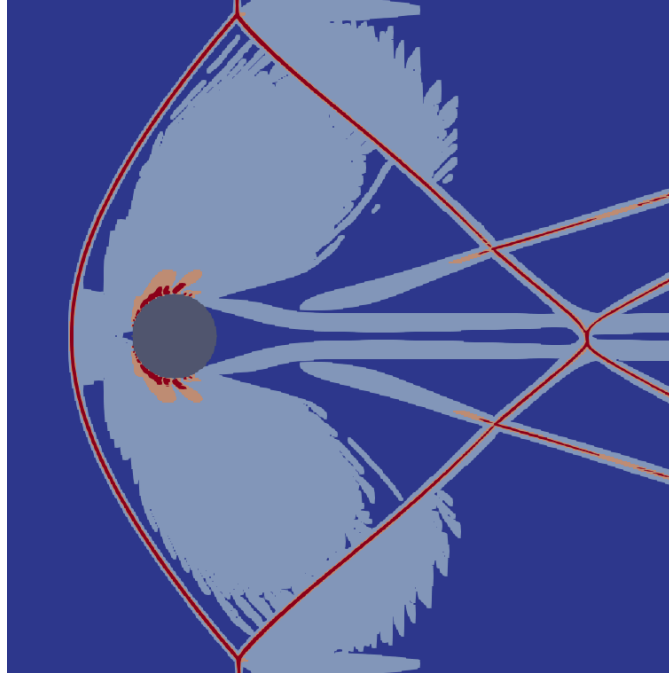
Mach2 Cylinder — Visual Results

Density Field



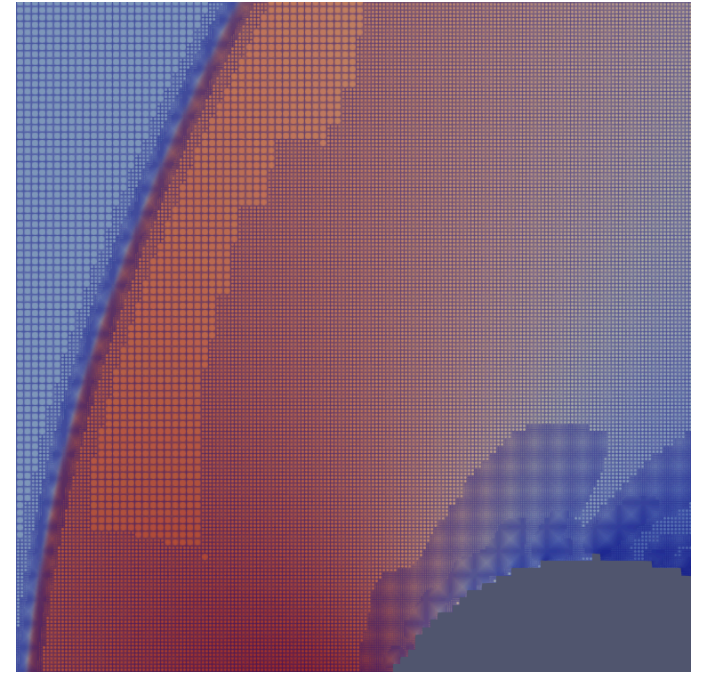
Bow shock in front of cylinder
Colormap: blue (low) → red (high)

AMR Levels



Automatic refinement zones
near the shock front

Mesh Zoom



Multi-level AMR resolution
near the bow shock

4 AMR levels (9-12) — Automatic refinement based on density gradient

Thank You!

Questions?

Key Points

- CSR interval representation
- Count-Scan-Fill pattern
- Kokkos parallelism (CPU/GPU)
- Workspace for memory reuse
- Multi-level AMR (Mach2)

Contact

Sébastien DUBOIS
HPC@Maths Team

Code: `include/subsetix/`
Demo: `examples/mach2_cylinder/`

Appendices

Appendix A: Project Evolution

Implementation History

Version	Description	Performance	Status
v1	CPU only, Sparse CSR + Workspaces First sequential implementation	Faster than baseline	✓ Stable
v2	Multithreaded Tiled Sparse CSR OpenMP and TBB backends Tiling for locality	Excellent on large mesh	⚠ Complex Likely bugs
v3	CUDA only GPU set algebra Proof of concept	Fastest	✓ PoC validated
v4	Kokkos (current version) Non-tiled Sparse CSR OpenMP + CUDA portability	Slower than v2/v3	✓✓ Reliable Verified

Lessons Learned

- **Tiling** improves locality but greatly increases complexity
- Native CUDA faster but less portable
- Kokkos = best **reliability/portability** tradeoff

Final Choice: Kokkos

- **Single** code for CPU and GPU
- Simplified maintenance
- Easy testing and verification
- Active ecosystem (Sandia, Trilinos)

Appendix B: Why Kokkos?

Comparison with Native CUDA

Aspect	CUDA	Kokkos
Portability	NVIDIA only	Multi-vendor
Syntax	<<<>>>	C++ standard
Memory	cudaMalloc	View<T*>
CPU Debug	Difficult	Easy (Serial)
Maintenance	Duplicated code	Single code
Performance	Optimal	90-95%

Supported Backends

- **OpenMP**: CPU multi-thread
- **CUDA**: NVIDIA GPU
- **HIP**: AMD GPU
- **SYCL**: Intel GPU
- **Serial**: debug and tests

Benefits for This Project

1. Faster Development

Debug on CPU (Serial/OpenMP), deploy on GPU

2. Reliable Tests

Same code tested on CPU and GPU
No hidden “GPU-only” bugs

3. Std Algorithms

transform, reduce, scan, copy...
Familiar API, platform-optimized

4. Ecosystem

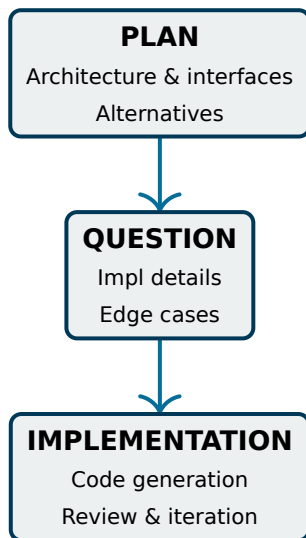
Trilinos, ArborX, Cabana...
Sandia National Labs support

Appendix C: Development Methodology

Models Used

- **Claude 4.5 Opus** (Anthropic)
- **Claude 4.5 Sonnet** (Anthropic)
- **gpt-5.1-codex-max** (OpenAI)

Work Pattern



Observed Benefits

- **Rapid exploration** of designs
- Generated inline documentation
- Automatically suggested tests
- Assisted refactoring

Points of Attention

- Systematic code verification
- LLMs can hallucinate APIs
- Always compile and test
- Maintain **architectural control**

LLM = **accelerator**, not replacement
Human expertise remains essential