

Subsetix: Sparse 2D Geometry on GPU

From Set Algebra to AMR Simulation

Sébastien DUBOIS

HPC@Maths Team

December 2025



Outline

I. Context

1. GPU Computing & Kokkos

II. Sparse Representation

2. Intervals and CSR
3. 2D Sparse Mesh Example

III. Data Structures

4. **Device-Side Overview**
5. IntervalSet2D, Field2D, SubSet
6. Workspace & AMR

IV. Algorithms

7. Geometry Constructors
8. Set Algebra
9. Field Operations
10. Morphology & AMR

V. Demo

11. Mach2 Cylinder (Multi-level AMR)

VI. Appendices

- Project Evolution
- Why Kokkos?
- Development Methodology

I. Context: GPU & Kokkos

GPU Architecture — Massively Parallel

Execution Hierarchy

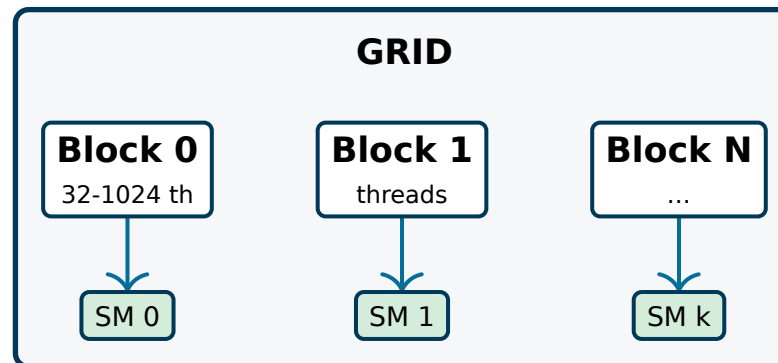


- **Warp** = 32 threads in **lockstep** (SIMT)
- **SM** = autonomous compute unit
- Multiple warps/SM → latency hiding

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	80 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

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

// Copy Host → Device
cudaMemcpy(d_data, h_data,
           n*8, HostToDevice);

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

// Copy Device → Host
cudaMemcpy(h_data, d_data,
           n*8, DeviceToHost);

// Free
cudaFree(d_data);
```

Kokkos

```
// Allocation + auto mirror
View<double*> data("d", n);
auto h_data = create_mirror_view(data);

// Copy Host → Device
deep_copy(data, h_data);

// Parallel (CPU or GPU)
parallel_for(n, KOKKOS_LAMBDA(int i){
    data(i) = compute(i);
});

// Copy Device → Host
deep_copy(h_data, data);

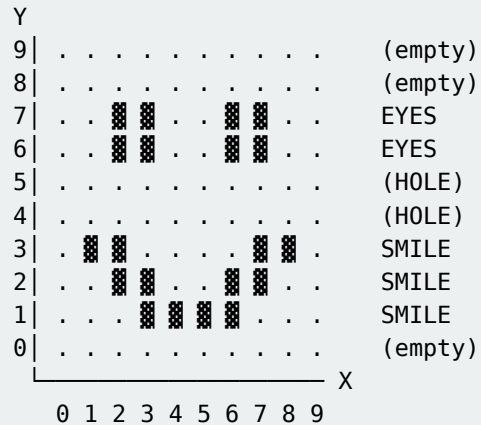
// Automatic cleanup (RAII)
```

Single source code → compiles for OpenMP, CUDA, HIP, SYCL, Serial — specializable if needed

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

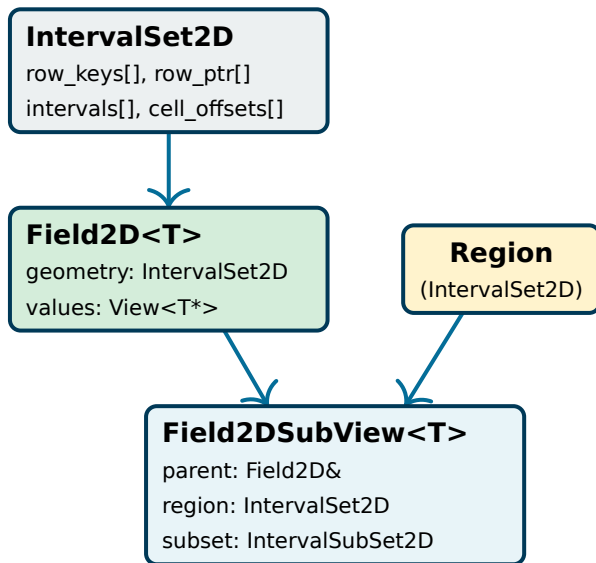
cell_offsets = [0,4,6,8,10,12,14,16,18,20]
total_cells = 20
```

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

```
// 0(1) - when interval index known
T val = field.at(interval_idx, x);

// 0(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

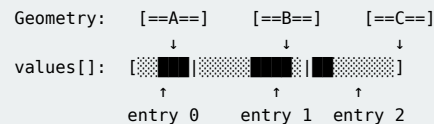
Structure

```
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

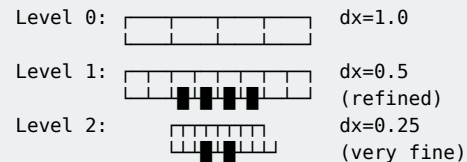
```
struct UnifiedCsrWorkspace {  
    View<int*> int_bufs_[5];  
    View<size_t*> size_t_bufs_[2];  
    View<RowKey2D*> row_key_bufs_[2];  
    View<Interval*> interval_buf_0;  
  
    auto get_int_buf(int id, size_t n) {  
        if (n > int_bufs_[id].extent(0))  
            Kokkos::resize(int_bufs_[id],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

Avoids repeated GPU allocations
Crucial for chained operations

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

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);

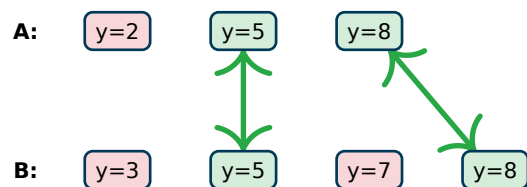
// ... use set2 (e.g., create Field2D on it) ...

// 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

Intersection — How It Works

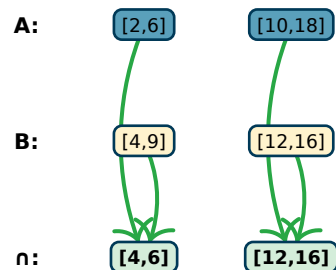
Phase 1: Row Mapping



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

Output size unknown \rightarrow 3-phase approach:



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

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 \cup, \cap, \oplus

Stencil Access — Sparse Geometry

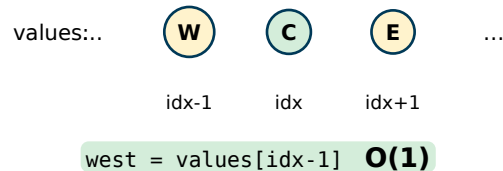
The Problem

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

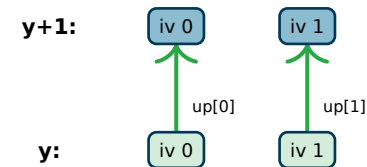


Vertical: Pre-computed Mapping

```
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)
```

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:

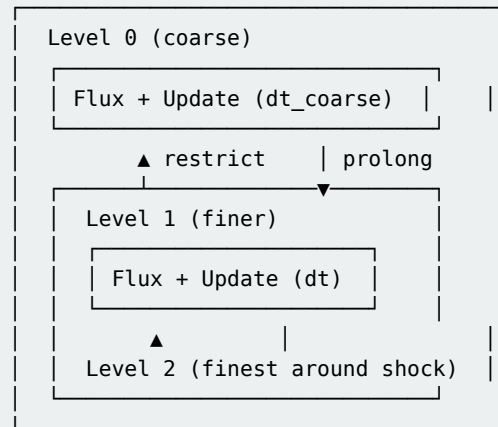
- **Mach 2** supersonic around a cylinder
- 1st order Godunov scheme + Rusanov flux
- **Dynamic AMR**: up to 6 levels

Subsetix Usage

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

// Conserved fields (ρ, pu, pv, 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

```
output/
├─ fluid_geometry.vtk
├─ obstacle_geometry.vtk
├─ level_0_density_0000.vtk
├─ level_0_density_0050.vtk
├─ level_1_density_0050.vtk
├─ level_2_density_0050.vtk
└─ ...
```

Execution Command

```
./mach2_cylinder \
  --nx 400 --ny 160 \
  --radius 20 \
  --mach-inlet 2.0 \
  --max-steps 1000 \
  --output-stride 50 \
  --amr
```

Observed Phenomena

- **Bow shock** in front of the cylinder
- Subsonic zone in the wake
- **Von Kármán** vortex street
- Automatic refinement near the shock

Key Technical Points

- CSR stencil: `apply_csr_stencil_on_set_device()`
- Struct-of-Arrays for cache efficiency
- `prolong_guard_from_coarse()`: interpolation
- `restrict_fine_to_coarse()`: conservation
- Multi-level VTK export for ParaView

Sparse: computation only on fluid cells!

Live Demo

Live Demo

Construction

- Box, Disk, Bitmap
- Difference (obstacle)
- CSR display

Operations

- Union / Intersection
- Field algebra
- Stencil

Mach2

- Launch simulation
- ParaView visualization
- AMR in action

Live demonstration...

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

Implementation History

Version	Description	Performance	Status
v1	CPU only, Sparse CSR + Workspaces First sequential implementation	Faster than baseline	✓ Stable
v3	CUDA only GPU set algebra Proof of concept	Fastest	✓ PoC validated

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)

Comparison with Native CUDA

Aspect	CUDA	Kokkos

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

Intensive Use of LLMs

Models Used

- **Claude Opus 4** (Anthropic)
- **Claude Sonnet 4** (Anthropic)

Work Pattern

1. PLAN
 - Architecture and interfaces
 - Discussion of alternatives
2. QUESTION
 - Implementation details
 - Edge cases
3. IMPLEMENTATION
 - Code generation
 - Review and iteration

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

Kokkos

- Website: kokkos.org
- GitHub: github.com/kokkos/kokkos
- Wiki: kokkos.org/kokkos-core-wiki

CUDA

- CUDA Toolkit Documentation
- CUDA C++ Programming Guide

Visualization

- VTK: vtk.org
- ParaView: paraview.org

Mathematical Morphology

- Serra, J. “Image Analysis and Mathematical Morphology” (1982)
- Soille, P. “Morphological Image Analysis” (2003)

Source Code

```
include/subsetix/  
├─ geometry/      # IntervalSet2D  
├─ field/         # Field2D  
├─ csr_ops/       # Algorithms  
├─ multilevel/    # AMR  
└─ detail/        # Utilities  
  
examples/mach2_cylinder/  
└─ mach2_cylinder.cpp # AMR Demo
```