

# SU2: Overview of History, Status, and Future Developments

Prof. Juan J. Alonso, Dr. Thomas D. Economon, and Dr. Francisco Palacios

Department of Aeronautics & Astronautics  
Stanford University

1st Annual SU2 Developers Meeting  
TU Delft  
September 5, 2016

# What is SU2?

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 CrossMark  
click for updates

## SU2: An Open-Source Suite for Multiphysics Simulation and Design

Thomas D. Economon<sup>§</sup>  
Stanford University, Stanford, California 94305  
Francisco Palacios<sup>¶</sup>  
The Boeing Company, Long Beach, California 90808  
and  
Sean R. Copeland<sup>§</sup>, Trent W. Lukaczyk<sup>§</sup>, and Juan J. Alonso<sup>§</sup>  
Stanford University, Stanford, California 94305  
DOI: [10.2514/1.J053813]

This paper presents the main objectives and a description of the SU2 suite, including the novel software architecture and open-source software engineering strategy. SU2 is a computational analysis and design package that has been developed to solve multiphysics analysis and optimization tasks using unstructured mesh topologies. Its unique architecture is well suited for extensibility to treat partial-differential-equation-based problems not initially envisioned. The common framework adopted enables the rapid implementation of new physics packages that can be tightly coupled to form a powerful ensemble of analysis tools to address complex problems facing many engineering communities. The framework is demonstrated on a number, solving both the flow and adjoint systems of equations to provide a high-fidelity predictive capability and sensitivity information that can be used for optimal shape design using a gradient-based framework, goal-oriented adaptive mesh refinement, or uncertainty quantification.

### Nomenclature

$A^e$	= Jacobian of the convective flux with respect to $U$	$f$	= force vector on the surface
$A^{vk}$	= Jacobian of the viscous fluxes with respect to $U$	$\hat{I}$	= identity matrix
$B$	= column vector or matrix $B$ , unless capitalized symbol clearly defined otherwise	$J$	= cost function defined as an integral over $S$
$B$	= $(B_x, B_y, B_z)$ in two dimensions, or $(B_x, B_y, B_z)$ in three dimensions	$j$	= scalar function defined at each point on $S$
$B^T$	= transpose operation on column vector or matrix $B$	$k$	= turbulent kinetic energy
$b$	= spatial vector $b \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , where $n$ is the dimension of the physical Cartesian space (in general, two or three)	$\mathcal{N}(i)$	= set of all neighboring nodes of node $i$
$C_D$	= coefficient of drag	$\mathbf{n}$	= unit normal vector
$C_L$	= coefficient of lift	$P$	= shear-stress transport turbulent kinetic energy production term
$C_M$	= pitching-moment coefficient	$Pr_d$	= dynamic Prandtl number
$C_p$	= coefficient of pressure	$Pr_t$	= turbulent Prandtl number
$c$	= airfoil chord length	$p$	= static pressure
$c_p$	= specific heat at constant pressure	$Q$	= vector of source terms
$\tilde{D}^{vk}$	= Jacobian of the viscous fluxes with respect to $\nabla U$	$q_\rho$	= generic density source term
$d_s$	= nearest wall distance	$q_{\rho E}$	= generic density source term
$d$	= force projection vector	$q_{\rho F}$	= generic momentum source term
$E$	= total energy per unit mass	$R$	= gas constant
$\tilde{F}_{ij}^c$	= numerical convective flux between nodes $i$ and $j$	$\mathcal{R}(U)$	= system of governing flow equations
$F_{ij}^v$	= numerical viscous fluxes between nodes $i$ and $j$	$Re$	= Reynolds number
$F^c$	= convective flux	$\mathcal{R}_i$	= system of governing equation residual at node $i$
$F^{vk}$	= viscous fluxes	$S$	= solid wall flow domain boundary

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†Engineer, Advanced Concepts Group. Senior Member AIAA.  
‡Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics. Student Member AIAA.  
§Professor, Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics. Associate Fellow AIAA.

Downloaded by STANFORD UNIVERSITY on April 5, 2016 http://arc.aiaa.org/10.2514/1.J053813

828

The SU2 suite is an **open-source** collection of C++ / MPI based software for multi-physics simulation and design on unstructured meshes (i.e., CFD!).

SU2 is under active development at Stanford University in the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics and **now in many places around the world**.



<https://github.com/su2code/SU2>

<http://su2.stanford.edu>

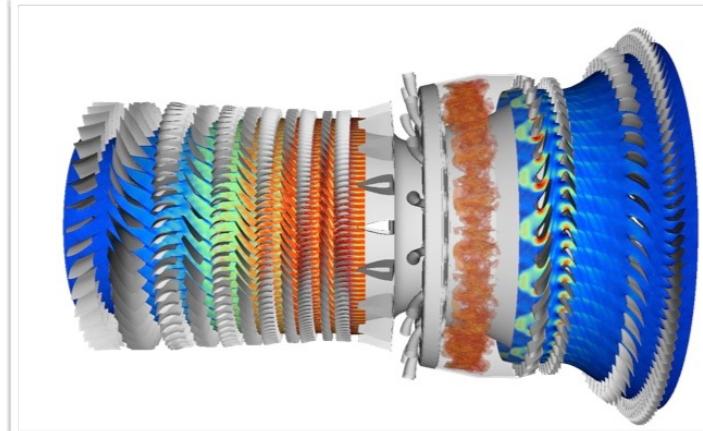
# Our Guiding Principles

1. Open-source (LGPL 2.1)!
2. Portability and easy installation.
3. Readability, reusability, and encapsulation (C++).
4. Flexibility and automation (Python).
5. High performance.
6. Gradient availability for design, mesh adaptation, UQ, etc.

We believe that an open-source code supported by a large group of developers working in concert has **tremendous potential**...

- Technical excellence: experts all around the world contribute to produce new research and capabilities not previously envisioned.
- Open, web-based platform encourages global collaboration without geographic limitations.
- Increases the pace of innovation in computational science.

# The SU2 Timeline



SUmb solver  
developed  
@ ADL

June 2008  
Francisco Palacios  
completes PhD with  
Juan Alonso  
on committee



Jan 2011  
Francisco joins  
ADL @ Stanford

Summer/Fall 2009  
Francisco spends  
3 months at Stanford

2010  
Work on  
CADES (predecessor  
to SU2) begins

Summer/Fall  
Preparations for  
releasing SU2 as  
open source

2003-2008

2009

2010

2011

“We must think big... on Jan 20th everybody in the aeronautical community must know that there is a new player in the CFD open-source community.”

- Dr. Francisco Palacios, January 9 2012

## SU<sup>2</sup> Pre-Release Workshop

Presented by Thomas D. Economon  
Hosted by the SU<sup>2</sup> Development Team

Aerospace Design Lab, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305, U.S.A.

January 17, 2012

STANFORD UNIVERSITY  
Unstructured Code

Jan 17  
Pre-release  
Workshop




<http://su2.stanford.edu>

STANFORD UNIVERSITY UNSTRUCTURED CODE (SU<sup>2</sup>) RELEASED  
TODAY, THURSDAY JANUARY 19, 2012  
The First Release of The SU<sup>2</sup> Open-Source Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD)  
Analysis and Optimization Suite is Out Today

Jan 19  
SU2 v1.0  
**SU2 is born!**

Winter

2012

Jun 25  
SU2 v1.1

Summer

Oct 31  
[su2.stanford.edu](http://su2.stanford.edu) update

Sept 25  
First tweet  
@su2code

Fall

## Stanford University Unstructured (SU<sup>2</sup>): An open-source integrated computational environment for multi-physics simulation and design.

Francisco Palacios\*, Michael R. Colombo\*,  
 Aniket C. Aranake†, Alejandro Campos†, Sean R. Copeland†, Thomas D. Economon†,  
 Amrita K. Lonkar†, Trent W. Lukaczyk†, Thomas W. R. Taylor†,  
 and Juan J. Alonso†  
*Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305, U.S.A.*

Jan 7  
 AIAA SciTech  
 Presentation

<http://su2.stanford.edu>

SU<sup>2</sup> is a cutting edge, flexible, open-source tool that can be used for:  
 • High-fidelity analysis  
 • Adjoint-based design  
 • Multi-physics simulations  
 • Adaptive, goal-oriented mesh refinement and sliding meshes  
 Documentation and a full description of current and future features are available on the SU<sup>2</sup> website.  
<http://su2.stanford.edu>

Email the development team:  
 susquared-dev@lists.stanford.edu

**Analyze. Optimize. Design!**

SU<sup>2</sup> is an open-source software suite for Partial Differential Equations (PDE) analysis and optimization of PDE constrained optimization problems on unstructured grids. The suite includes a series of C++ modules, linked via Python scripts, that:  
 • Solve the PDE system  
 • Decompose the domain for parallel computations  
 • Determine sensitivities of desired objective functions (e.g., lift, drag)  
 • Deform the model and grid to perform shape optimization  
 • Perform adaptive grid refinement  
 Source code and Mac OS X, Linux and Windows executables can be downloaded from:  
<http://su2.stanford.edu>

DLR-F6 static pressure contours

Sample Unstructured High-Fidelity Analysis and Optimization Baseline and Final N+2 surface pressure

STANFORD AERONAUTICS & ASTRODYNAMICS

SU<sup>2</sup> is under active development by the Aerospace Design Laboratory at Stanford University. Visit the AOL site: <http://aol.stanford.edu>



Jan 8  
 SU2 v2.0,  
 CFD Online  
 Forum Open

**SU<sup>2</sup> Release Version 2.0 Workshop**  
 Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013

William F. Durand Building, Rm. 450  
 496 Lomita Mall  
 Stanford, CA 94305

11.00 – 11.20: Welcome and Introduction to SU<sup>2</sup> (Dr. Francisco Palacios & Prof. Juan Alonso)

11.20 – 11.30: Quick Overview of SU<sup>2</sup> Installation (Dr. Mike Colombo & Aniket Aranake)  
*Please come to the workshop with the software downloaded and installed. If you have any problems, we will provide individual support around the room.*

11.30 – 12.00: Introduction to the SU<sup>2</sup> Code Structure (Amrita Lonkar)  
*Have a unique application in mind? Learn the structure of the code so you can expand its capabilities to suit your needs!*

12.00 – 12.30: Running SU<sup>2</sup> (Sean Copeland & Tom Taylor)

Jan 15  
 SU2 v2.0  
 Workshop

Winter  
 2013

Spring

Summer

Fall

**OpenMDAO and SU<sup>2</sup> joint Workshop**  
 Sept 30<sup>th</sup> – Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013  
 William F. Durand Building, Rm. 450  
 496 Lomita Mall, Stanford, CA 94305

**First day - Basic topics**

- 10.00 – 10.15: Welcome and introduction to the Workshop.
- 10.15 – 10.45: Overview of OpenMDAO and installation.
- 10.45 – 11.30: Running OpenMDAO and working with Plugins. *Quick start tutorial.*
- 11.30 – 11.45: Short break.
- 11.45 – 12.15: Overview of SU<sup>2</sup> and installation.
- 11.30 – 13.00: Running SU<sup>2</sup>. *Quick start tutorial.*
- 13.00 – 13.30: Break (food provided)
- 13.30 – 14.00: Brainstorming for ideas for possible projects.
- 14.00 – 16.45: Hack-a-thon. *Work side-by-side writing OpenMDAO/SU<sup>2</sup> applications.*
- 16.45 – 17.00: Adjourn first day.

**Second day - Advanced topics**

- 9.00 – 9.15: Welcome to the second day.
- 9.15 – 10.45: Advanced topics in SU<sup>2</sup>:
  - Unsteady RANS simulation. SU<sup>2</sup> has multitude of capabilities for performing high-fidelity analysis of complex geometries. Learn about them here.
  - Design and Optimization Using SU<sup>2</sup>. Learn why SU<sup>2</sup> is uniquely suited for performing design and optimization of complex aerospace systems.
- 10.45 – 11.00: Short break.
- 11.00 – 12.30: Advanced topics in OpenMDAO:
  - Greater modeling flexibility with automatic coupled derivatives in OpenMDAO.
  - Building complex MDAO methods (e.g. Efficient Global Optimization, StackMC) with OpenMDAO Drivers, Workflows, and MetaModels.
- 12.30 – 13.00: Break (food provided)
- 13.00 – 15.45: Hack-a-thon. *Work side-by-side writing OpenMDAO/SU<sup>2</sup> applications.*
- 15.45 – 16.00: Adjourn second day.

Thanks for attending, and note that all stated times are Pacific Time (PDT). Please RSVP by registering at the SU<sup>2</sup> home-page (<http://su2.stanford.edu>).

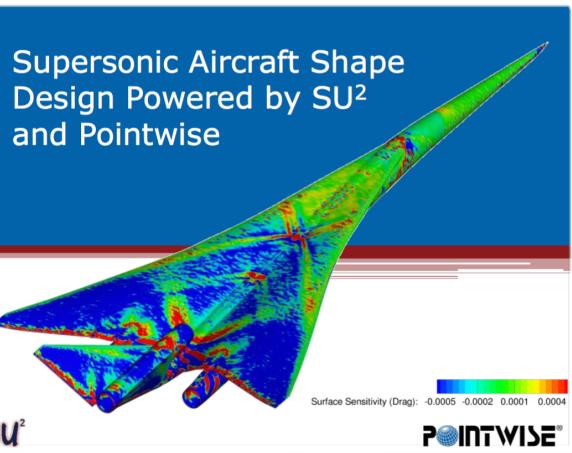
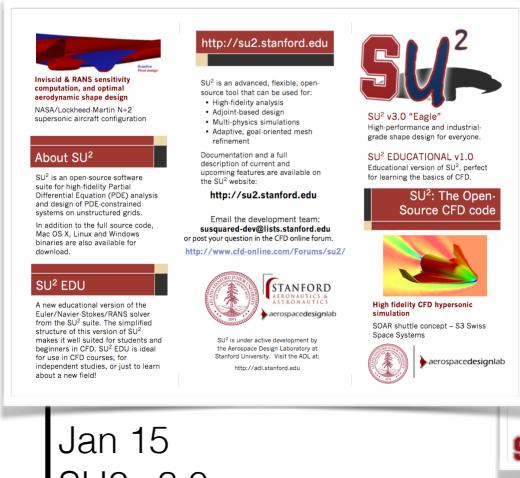
You can find more information about the codes in:

- OpenMDAO home-page: <http://openmdao.org>
- SU<sup>2</sup> home-page: <http://su2.stanford.edu>

Please, come to the workshop with the software downloaded and installed (<https://github.com/OpenMDAO> and <https://github.com/su2code>). If you have any problems, we will provide individual support around the room.



Aug 10  
 SU2 on GitHub



**Pointwise® and SU2 Joint Workshop**

Sept 29<sup>th</sup> – Sept 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
William F. Durand Building, Rm. 450  
496 Lomita Mall, Stanford, CA 94305

**First day - Basic topics**

- 10.00 – 10.15: Welcome and introduction to the workshop.
- 10.15 – 10.45: Overview of Pointwise® and installation.
- 10.45 – 11.30: Running Pointwise®. Quick start tutorial.
- 11.30 – 11.45: Short break (coffee provided).
- 11.45 – 12.15: Overview of SU2 and installation.
- 12.15 – 13.00: Running SU2. Quick start tutorial.
- 13.00 – 13.30: Break (food provided)
- 13.30 – 15.00: Hybrid meshing using Pointwise®. Learn how to combine the best of both structured and unstructured meshing to generate hybrid meshes for complex geometries.
- 15.00 – 16.30: Optimal Shape Design using SU2. Learn why SU2 is uniquely suited for performing shape design of complex aerospace systems.
- 16.30 – 17.00: Adjourn first day.

**Second day - Advanced topics**

9.00 – 9.15: Welcome to the second day.

Learn how to modify your favorite CFD solver.  
Learn how to add new options in the configuration file and codebase through GitHub pull requests.  
Learn how to implement your own solver in SU2.  
Learn how to inspect grid quality and locate problems prior to export.  
Learn how to use the flexible SU2 capabilities for unsteady problems, including mesh motion and moving boundaries.  
Learn how to use Pointwise's scripting language.  
Important note: We will host a hands-on session during the workshop. Please bring your laptop and learn more about Pointwise® and SU2.

Times are Pacific Time (PDT).  
See <http://su2.stanford.edu>.  
Please visit the following:

Pointwise.com

Pointwise (Pointwise, Inc. will provide a 2-day license during the event). If you have any questions, please contact us at [su2-dev@lists.stanford.edu](mailto:su2-dev@lists.stanford.edu).

Jan 15  
SU2 v3.0  
SU2\_EDU v1.0

Apr 29  
Pointwise-SU2  
Webinar



I simulate a supersonic aircraft with SU2, but it appears there are some non-physical points until the end. I wonder whether the result is credible. Could you help me?

5.21 / 28:20



Apr 14  
SU2 v3.1



May 7  
Intel Parallel  
Comp. Center



July 31  
TU Delft & Polimi  
Visit Stanford



Sept 16  
Dev  
Email List

Winter

Spring

Summer

Fall

2014



March 2016



## SU2: An Open-Source Suite for Multiphysics Simulation and Design

Thomas D. Economon<sup>B</sup>  
Stanford University, Stanford, California 94305  
Francisco Paluszak<sup>B</sup>  
The Boeing Company, Long Beach, California 90808  
and  
Sean R. Copeland<sup>B</sup>, Trent W. Lukaczyk<sup>B</sup> and Juan J. Alonso<sup>B</sup>  
Stanford University, Stanford, California 94305

DOI: [10.2514/6-2016-0013](https://doi.org/10.2514/6-2016-0013)

This paper presents the main objectives and a description of the SU2 suite, including the novel numerical methods and open-source software developed to support them. The SU2 framework, which has been developed to solve multiphysics analysis and optimization tasks using unstructured mesh topologies, its unique architecture is well suited for extensibility to treat partial-differential-equation-based problems not initially envisioned. The framework is designed to be modular and extensible, allowing users to add new solvers and components and to couple them to form a powerful ensemble of analysis tools to address complex problems facing many engineering communities. The framework is demonstrated on a number, solving both the flow and adjoint systems of equations to provide a high-fidelity predictive capability and sensitivity information that can be used for optimal shape design using a gradient-based framework, goal-oriented adaptive mesh refinement, or uncertainty quantification.

<b>Nomenclature</b>	$f$ = force vector on the surface
$\hat{f}$	= force vector on the surface
$J$	= Jacobian matrix defined as an integral over $S$
$j$	= scalar function defined at each point on $S$
$k$	= turbulent kinetic energy
$\mathbf{k}$	= unit vector along the nodes of node $i$
$\mathbf{n}$	= unit normal vector
$P$	= shear-stress transport turbulent kinetic energy source term
$P_{fg}$	= dynamic Prandtl number
$P_f$	= turbulent Prandtl number
$Q$	= vector of source terms
$q_s$	= generic density source term
$Q_s$	= generic momentum source term
$R$	= gas constant
$R_e(U)$	= Reynolds number
$\mathcal{R}_i$	= system of governing equation residual at node $i$
$S$	= Spalart-Allmaras boundary condition
$T$	= temperature
$U$	= vector of conservative variables
$W$	= vector of characteristic variables
$W_c$	= vector of characteristic variables
$W_w$	= far-field characteristic variables
$\mathcal{W}$	= flow domain boundary
$\Delta S_i$	= ratio of specific heats, equal to 1.4 for air
$\Delta S_{ij}$	= interface area between nodes $i$ and $j$
$\Delta S_i$	= normal gradient operator at a surface point, $\pi_i$
$\mu_{\text{eff}}$	= laminar thermal viscosity
$\mu_{\text{eff}}^2$	= total viscosity as a sum of dynamic
$\mu_{\text{eff}}^2 + \mu_{\text{turb}}$	= effective thermal conductivity: $(\mu_{\text{eff}}/\mu_{\text{turb}}) + (\mu_{\text{eff}}/\mu_{\text{turb}})^2$
$\mu_{\text{turb}}$	= flow velocity vector
$\rho$	= fluid density
$\rho^{\text{p}}$	= pseudoturbulence

Mar 14  
Francisco's farewell  
from Stanford

Wednesday, March 18

### MS302

#### PDE-constrained Optimization using the Open-source Code SU2

2:00 PM - 3:40 PM  
Room: 151 AB

Most established codes for PDE-constrained optimization are proprietary, unavailable, or prohibitively expensive for many users. The SU2 code is freely available as open-source and features a complete computational analysis framework for multidisciplinary design in applications such as, but not limited to, aerospace technology. This minisymposium will cover up-to-date topics within the SU2 framework related to its continuous and discrete adjoint capabilities, the application to large-scale aerodynamic design, and the utilization of many-core architectures. Each of the topics covered involve the combination of multiple research areas of interest to the CS&E community.

Mar 18  
SIAM CSE  
Mini



March  
TU Kaiserslautern  
Visits Stanford

Winter

2015

Jun 23  
SU2 v4.0@ AIAA  
AVIATION  
Travis CI

Spring

Summer

Fall

UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE.

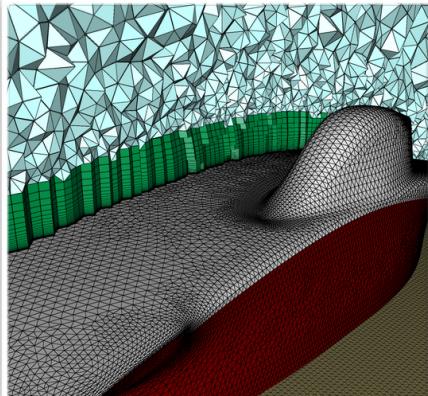


Imperial College  
London

August 6  
ALCF Theta  
ESP Selection

Aug - Sept  
Imperial College  
Visits Stanford

December 29  
SU2 in the  
AIAA Journal



# SU2

The Open-Source CFD Code

Continuous *er* and Discrete.

The open-source SU2 package for CFD analysis and design serves not only as a useable example to computational scientists, but also as a common baseline for future development by the entire community. The current open-source model has enabled the leading experts across many technical areas, anywhere in the world, to work together in creating new capabilities that would not have materialized in the absence of collaboration. Today, we demonstrate this once again with the release of SU2 version 4.1 "Cardinal."

[Download SU2 v4.1](#)

Through collaboration with the SciComp Team at TU Kaiserslautern, we are proud to introduce the support of Algorithmic Differentiation (AD). Based on interfaces, this enables exact derivative computations throughout implementation uses the recently released open-source library, [C++](#). Derivatives of all occurring operations and to evaluate the final gradients, C++ features, like static polymorphism and expression templates, advanced AD methods (preaccumulation, externally differentiated communication) result in a low memory footprint and fast evaluations.

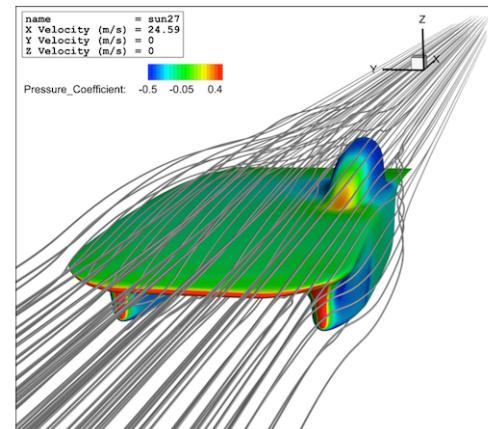
Jan 7  
SU2 v4.1



Feb 29  
NASA LBFD  
Announced

Winter

The Stanford Solar Car Project's Race for Aerodynamic Efficiency



You are invited to a free webinar on Tue, Apr 5, 2016 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM PDT.

Apr 5  
Pointwise,  
Tecplot,  
SU Solar Car,  
SU2 Webinar

Spring

Jun 15  
SU2 v4.2

Summer

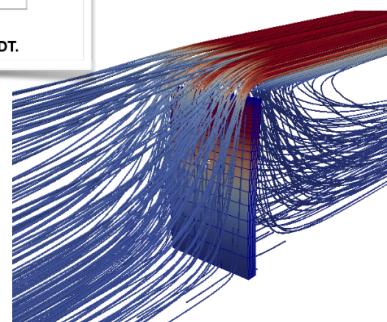
2016



# SU2

The Open-Source CFD Code

Fluid, meet Structure.



The open-source SU2 package for CFD analysis and design was conceived as a for multi-physics research. We've been hard at work improving our C++ class and more easily support the addition of new physical models and their coupling at a high-level, and today we are releasing a powerful new example in the form of a fluid-structure interaction (FSI) capability embedded within SU2 version 4.2 "Cardinal."

[Download SU2 v4.2](#)

July / August  
U of Liege  
Visits Stanford

Université  
de Liège



Aug  
SU2 v4.3

June - July  
SU2 @ ECCOMAS  
SU2 @ NOED  
SU2 @ WCCM  
(Devs have fun  
in Munich, Germany)

# SU2

The Open-Source CFD Code

## 1<sup>st</sup> Annual SU2 Developers Meeting

Sept 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
TU Delft, Aula Conference Center, Commissie Kamer 3  
Mekelweg 5, 2628 CC Delft, Netherlands

### Meeting Agenda

- 09.00 – 09.15: Welcome & Introduction  
Prof. Juan J. Alonso & Dr. Thomas D. Economon, Stanford University
- 09.15 – 09.35: SU2: Overview of History, Status, and Future Developments  
Prof. Alberto Guardone, Politecnico di Milano (presenter), Profs. Piero Colonna & Matteo Pini, TU Delft
- 09.35 – 10.00: NICFD (Non Ideal Compressible Fluid Dynamics) in the SU2 Framework  
Prof. Alberto Guardone, Politecnico di Milano (presenter), Profs. Piero Colonna & Matteo Pini, TU Delft
- 10.00 – 10.25: Automatic Differentiation Discrete Adjoints Using SU2  
Prof. Nicolas Gauger, TU Kaiserslautern
- 10.25 – 10.35: Coffee Break
- 10.35 – 11.00: Development of a High-Order Discontinuous Galerkin Fluid Solver Within SU2  
Prof. Edwin van der Weide, University of Twente
- 11.00 – 11.25: Fluid-Structure Interaction Problems Using Native and External Structural Solvers Coupled to SU2  
Prof. Rafael Palacios (presenter) & Mr. Rubén Sánchez, Imperial College, Prof. Vincent Terrapon & Mr. David Thomas, Université de Liège
- 11.25 – 11.50: Turbomachinery Simulations Using SU2  
Profs. Matteo Pini (presenter) & Piero Colonna, Mr. Salvatore Vitale, Mr. Antonio Rubinò, TU Delft Prof. Alberto Guardone, Mr. Giulio Gori, Politecnico di Milano
- 11.50 – 12.15: Mesh Adaptation for SU2 with the INRIA AMG Library  
Prof. Juan J. Alonso & Dr. Thomas D. Economon, Stanford University
- 12.15 – 12.45: SU2 Development Priorities for the Next Year / Discussion  
Prof. Juan J. Alonso (moderator), all attendees

In order to participate (in-person or virtually), please register for the meeting by following the link on the SU2 home page (<http://su2.stanford.edu>). Thanks for your interest and note that all stated times are Central European Summer Time (CEST).

To find more information on SU2, please visit the following pages:

- SU2 on GitHub: <https://github.com/su2code/su2>
- SU2 Forum on CFD Online: <http://www.cfd-online.com/Forums/su2/>
- Follow SU2 on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/su2code>

Stanford ENGINEERING Aerodynamics & Astronautics TU Delft IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE Argonne TECHNION ISRAEL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Sept 5  
1<sup>st</sup> Annual SU2  
Developers Meeting

# Research in SU2

AIAA SciTech  
5-9 January 2015, Kissimmee, Florida  
53rd AIAA Aerospace  
51st AIAA Aviation  
07 - 10 Jan 2015  
AIAA Aviation  
13-17 June 2016, Washington, D.C.  
17th AIAA/ISSMO Multidisciplinary Analysis and Optimization Conference  
AIAA 2015-3518  
AIAA 2016-3369

17th AIAA/ISSMO Multidisciplinary Analysis and Optimization Conference, 13 – 17 June 2015, Washington, D.C.

## Efficient Aerodynamic Design using the Discrete Adjoint Method in SU2

Tim Albring\*, Max Sagebaum† and Nicolas R. Gauger‡  
TU Kaiserslautern, Kaiserslautern, 67663, Germany

### I. Introduction

Almost 30 years have passed since Jameson<sup>1</sup> discussed the success and challenges in CFD and listed optimization and design as one the directions for future research. Unfortunately, computational methods for aerodynamic analysis are even today far from being incorporated in automatic design procedures. Although adjoint methods<sup>2,3,4</sup> have greatly decreased the computational effort and impressive results using the continuous<sup>5</sup> and discrete<sup>6</sup> adjoint approaches were published during the last few years, there are still open issues regarding the robustness, (discrete) consistency and generality for complex problems in turbulent flows. Typically, one has to make a compromise between efficiency and the latter properties while choosing an appropriate approach for a given problem. In general there exist different approaches to construct and solve the discrete adjoint system of equations. Most of them require the exact linearization of the flow residual, which is in contrast to the flow solver itself, where some approximation is most of the time sufficient to yield convergence. Depending on the complexity of the numerical methods the linearization by hand is time-consuming and error-prone. Furthermore it lacks the capability of adapting to changes in the flow solver. One way to circumvent this problems is the use of Algorithmic Differentiation (AD) applied to parts of the flow solver<sup>7,8</sup> to construct the Jacobian. Although it reduces the error-proneness, it still requires the manual application of AD to all subroutines involved in the computation of the residual. Even if we have the exact Jacobian, it is typically ill-conditioned so that applying a Krylov-method can be inefficient. This is often visible when including turbulence models. Here, *Duality-Preserving* methods can be useful as they guarantee to have the same convergence rate as the flow solver. These methods were originally suggested by Korivi and Newman,<sup>9,10</sup> albeit called *Incremental Iterative Form*. Until today they are only used by a manageable amount of people.<sup>11,12,13</sup>

In this paper we want to show that by exploitation of the fixed-point structure of the flow solver it is possible to derive a duality-preserving iteration to solve the adjoint system. All occurring gradients can be constructed by applying AD to the top-level routine of the flow solver, thereby eliminating the manual construction of the exact Jacobi matrix. Furthermore, we apply advanced AD techniques like expression templates<sup>24,25</sup> and local preaccumulation<sup>14</sup> to automatically generate a representation of the computational graph of each expression at compile-time. This results in competitive performance while still maintaining flexibility. Due to the use of AD the extension to new turbulence models, transitions models, fluid models or objective functions is straightforward. To contribute to the open-source idea, we therefore tightly integrated the discrete adjoint solver along with the AD features into the open-source framework SU2,<sup>16,17</sup> in order for the community to explore new and interesting optimization problems. For this reason we also dedicate a section to give a short overview on the implementation.

\*PhD. Candidate, Chair for Scientific Computing, TU Kaiserslautern, 67663 Kaiserslautern, Germany, AIAA Student Member.  
†PhD. Candidate, Chair for Scientific Computing, TU Kaiserslautern, 67663 Kaiserslautern, Germany.  
‡Professor, Chair for Scientific Computing, TU Kaiserslautern, 67663 Kaiserslautern, Germany, AIAA Senior Member.

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17th AIAA/ISSMO Multidisciplinary Analysis and Optimization Conference, 13 – 17 June 2016, Washington, D.C.

## Efficient Unsteady Aerodynamic and Aeroacoustic Design Framework Using Discrete Adjoint

Beckett Y. Zhou\*, Tim Albring,<sup>†</sup> and Nicolas R. Gauger<sup>‡</sup>  
Chair for Scientific Computing, TU Kaiserslautern  
Bldg 34, Paul-Ehrlich-Strasse, 67663 Kaiserslautern, Germany

Carlos R. Ilario da Silva<sup>§</sup>, Thomas D. Economon,<sup>¶</sup> and Juan J. Alonso <sup>||</sup>  
Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Stanford University  
Stanford, CA 94305, U.S.A.

aper, we present an unsteady aerodynamic and aeroacoustic optimization framework in which differentiation (AD) is applied to the open-source multi-physics solver SU2 to obtain design sensitive AD-based consistent discrete adjoint solver is developed which directly inherits the convergence of the primal flow solver due to the differentiation of the entire nonlinear fixed-point iterator. In applied CFD-CAA far-field noise prediction framework using a permeable surface Ffowcs Williams-Watts approach in frequency domain is also developed. The resultant AD-based discrete adjoint solver is both aerodynamic and aeroacoustic optimization problems. The results suggest that the unsteady motion provided by this AD-based discrete adjoint framework is accurate and robust, due to the differentiation of the entire design chain including the dynamic mesh movement routine and variance model, as well as the hybrid CFD-CAA model. This study also shows the aerodynamic and aeroacoustic objectives to be mutually competing.

### I. Introduction

al decades have seen significant progresses in the numerical methods for the design and optimization of aircraft. Since the advent of adjoint-based methods,<sup>1,2</sup> for which the computational cost is independent of the number of design variables, researchers have been able to tackle many large-scale and practical problems, such as aerodynamic and aerostructural optimizations of complete aircraft configurations.<sup>3,4</sup> In most applications, the problem is considered to be in a steady state, as is evident from the rich body of literatures on the shape optimization with steady Euler and Reynolds-averaged Navier-Stokes equations (RANS). Many aerospace problems are unsteady in nature, such as active flow control, turbomachinery, aeroelasticity, wind-inspired flight and aeroacoustics. In comparison to the large strides made in its steady counterpart-based optimization has not received as much attention and methods available to address such problems are currently less mature. This has been primarily due to the need to store prohibitively large amounts of data required to solve the unsteady adjoint equation. Furthermore, many unsteady problems involve moving boundaries. The need to accurately account for the requisite mesh movement in the governing equations and adjoint equations introduces additional difficulties.

With the growth of computing power and the improvement of time-accurate numerical methods, has led to significant progress in this area over the past decade. The renewed interest in reduction of aircraft noise – a steady phenomenon, due to the ever-stringent aviation noise regulations, also served as a necessary motivation. Zingg developed a discrete adjoint formulation for unsteady aerodynamic shape optimization

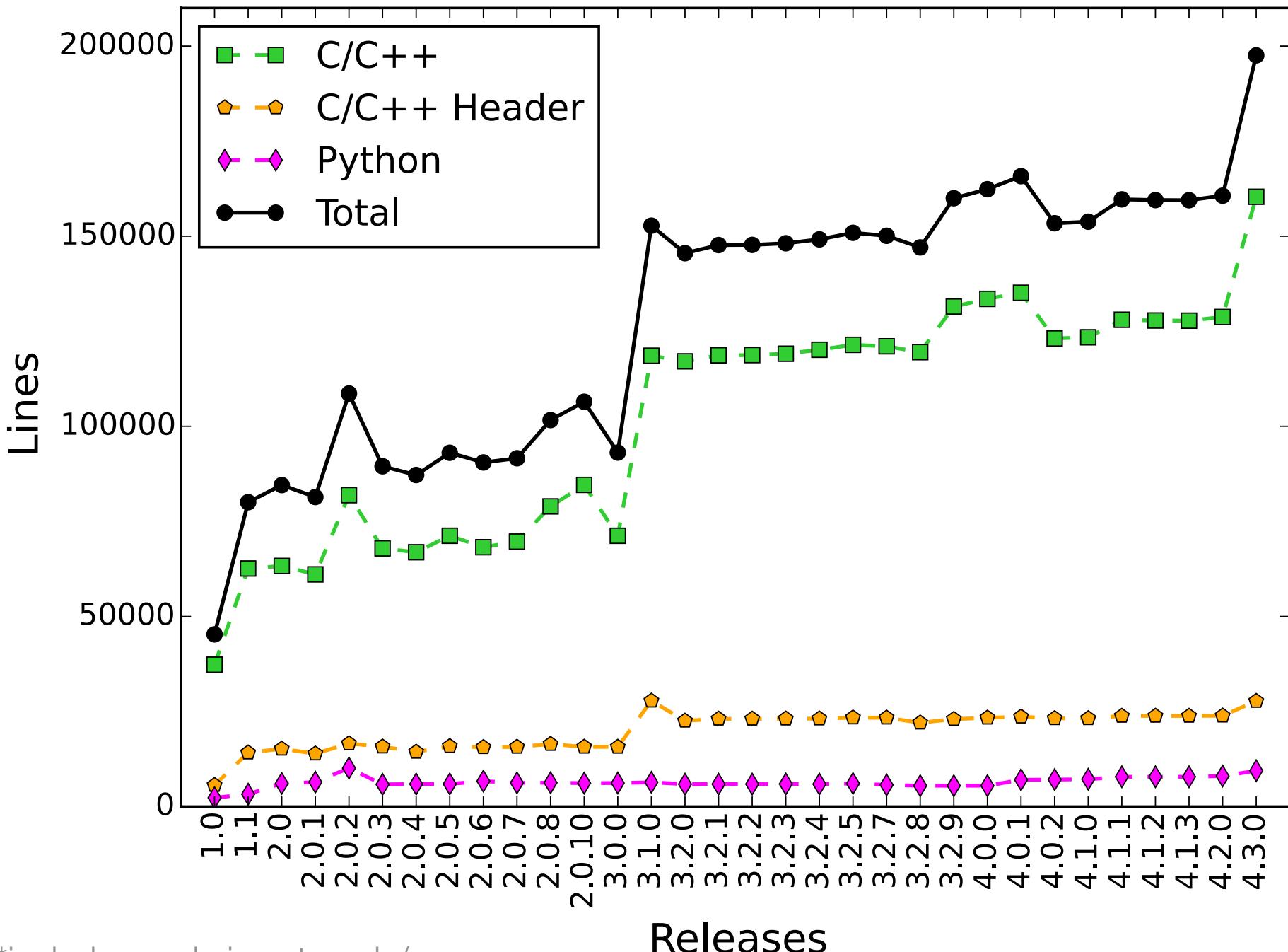
Student Member AIAA, yuxiang.zhou@scicomp.uni-kl.de  
im.albring@scicomp.uni-kl.de  
Member AIAA, nicolas.gauger@scicomp.uni-kl.de  
research Associate, Associate Member AIAA, carlos.ilario@stanford.edu  
car, Student Member AIAA, economon@stanford.edu  
te Fellow AIAA, jjalonzo@stanford.edu

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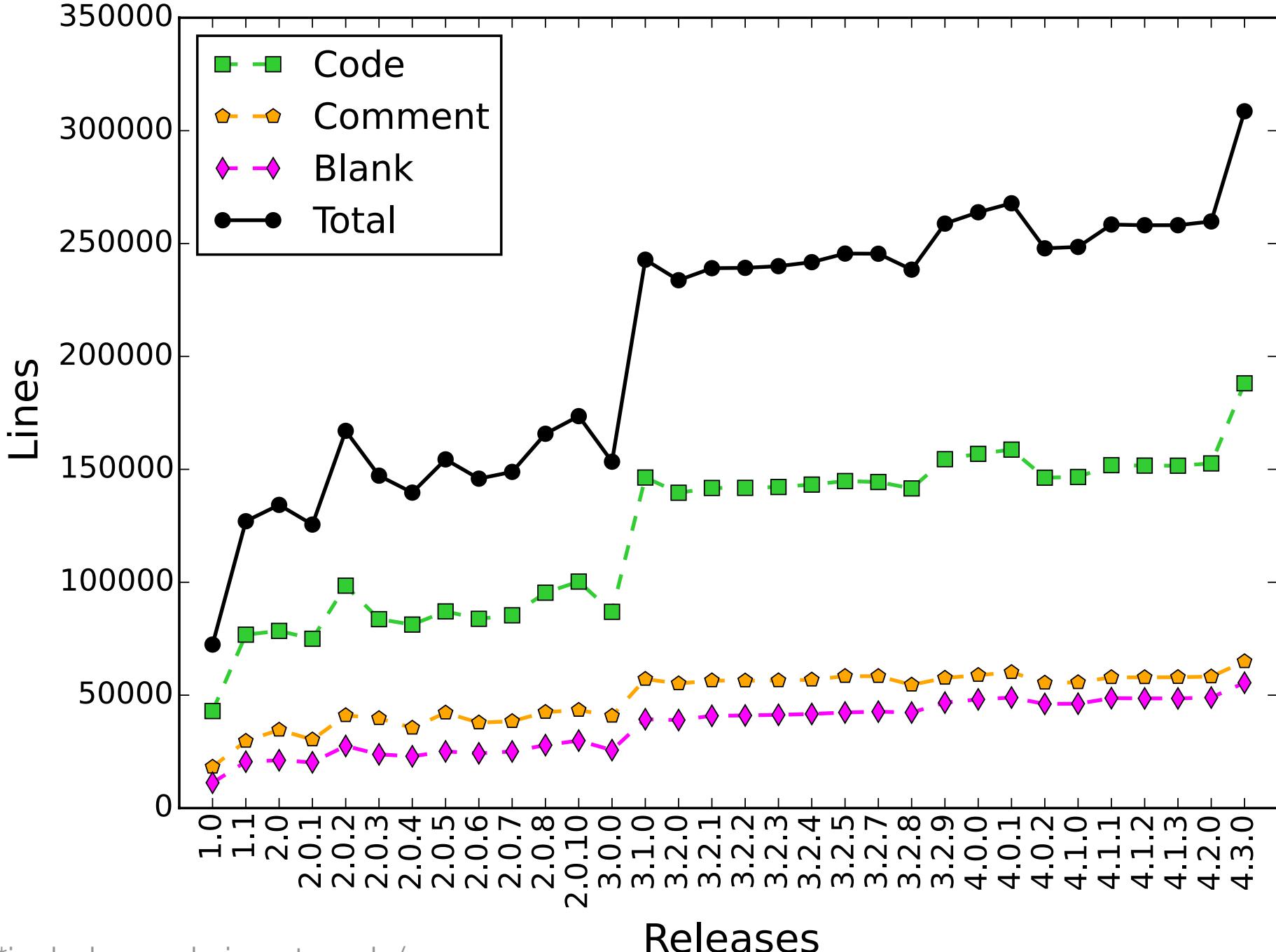
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# Lines of Code in SU2 by Release (w/out comments or blanks)



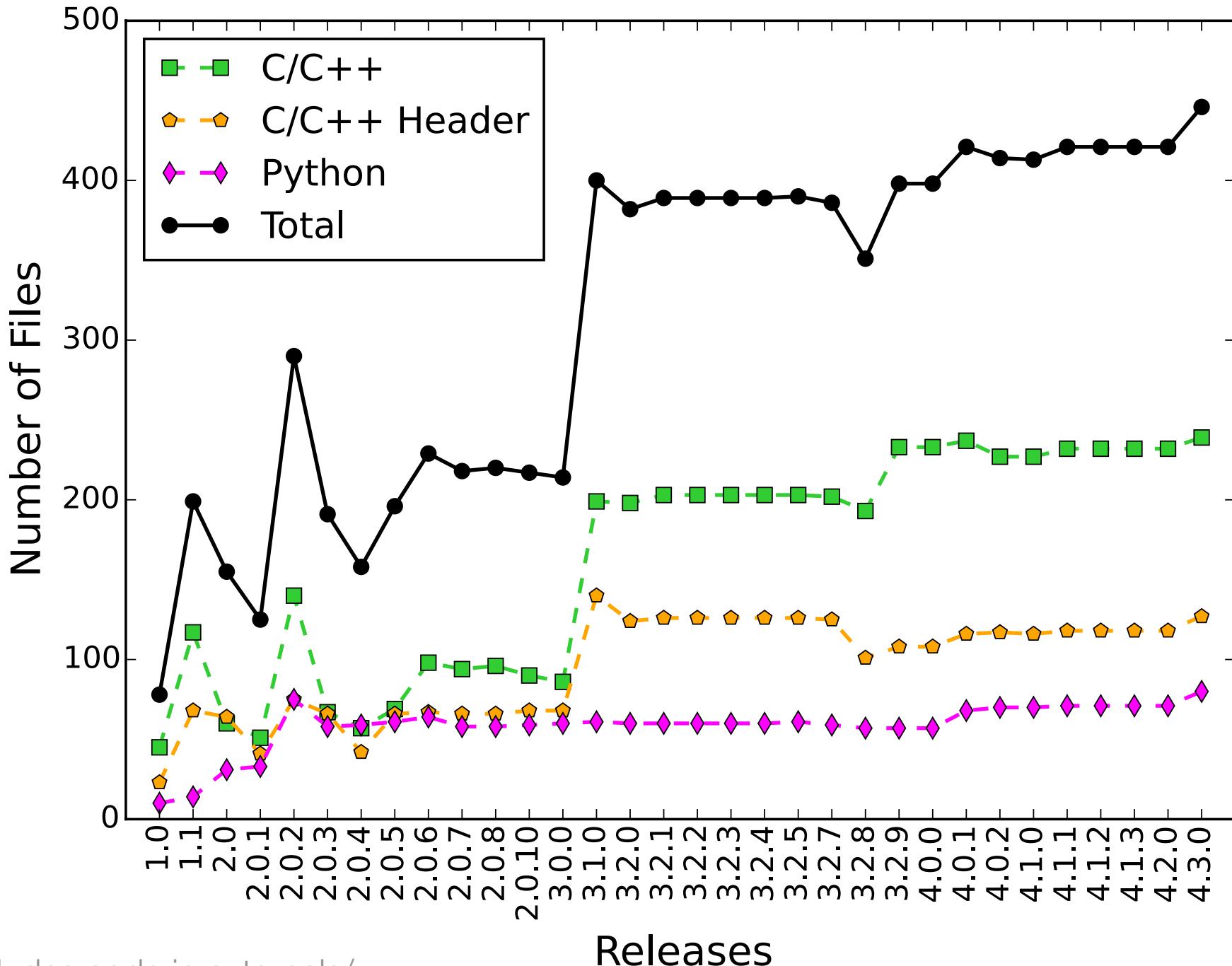
\*includes code in externals/

# Breakdown of C/C++ in SU2 by Release (code and headers)



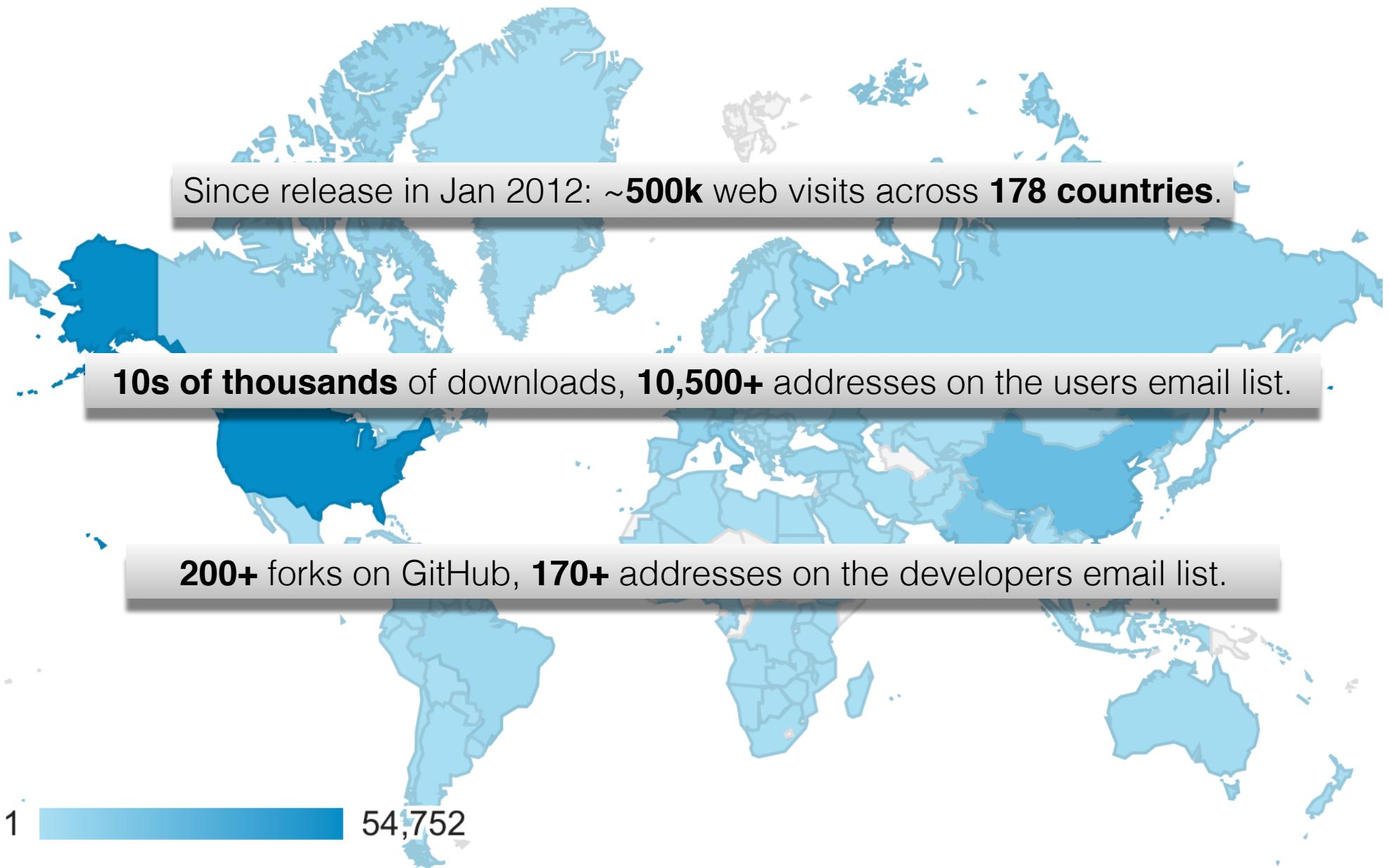
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## Number of Files in SU2 by Release

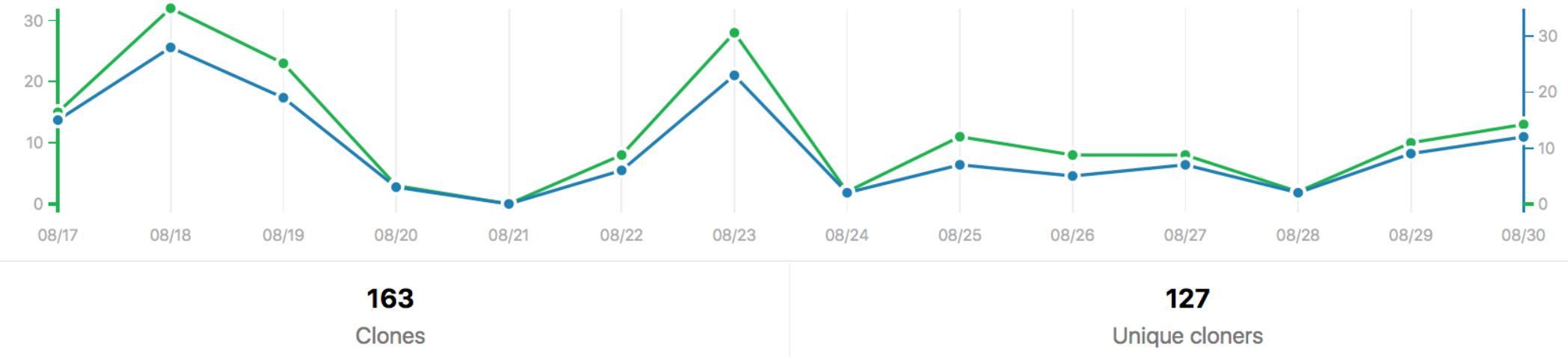


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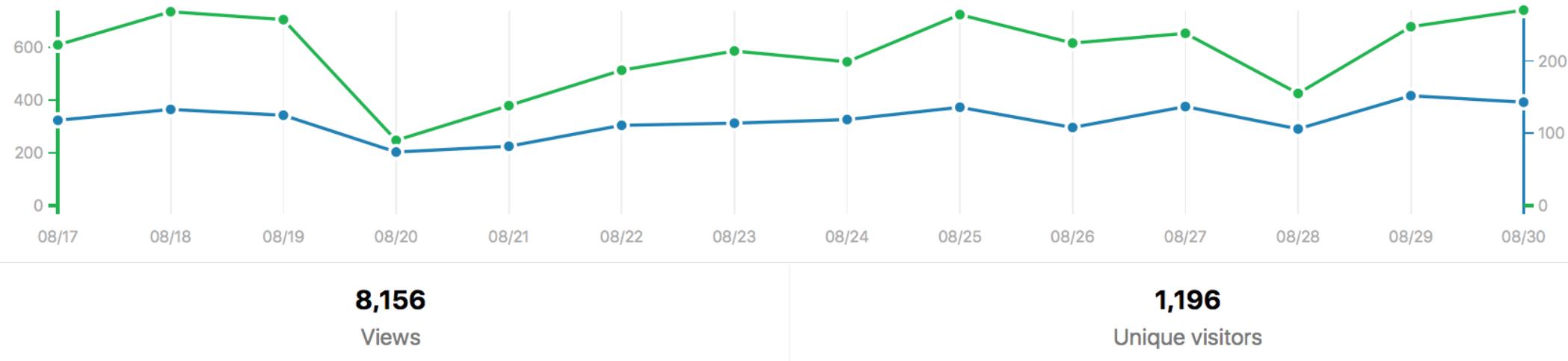
# Where are we today? Everywhere.



## Git clones



## Visitors

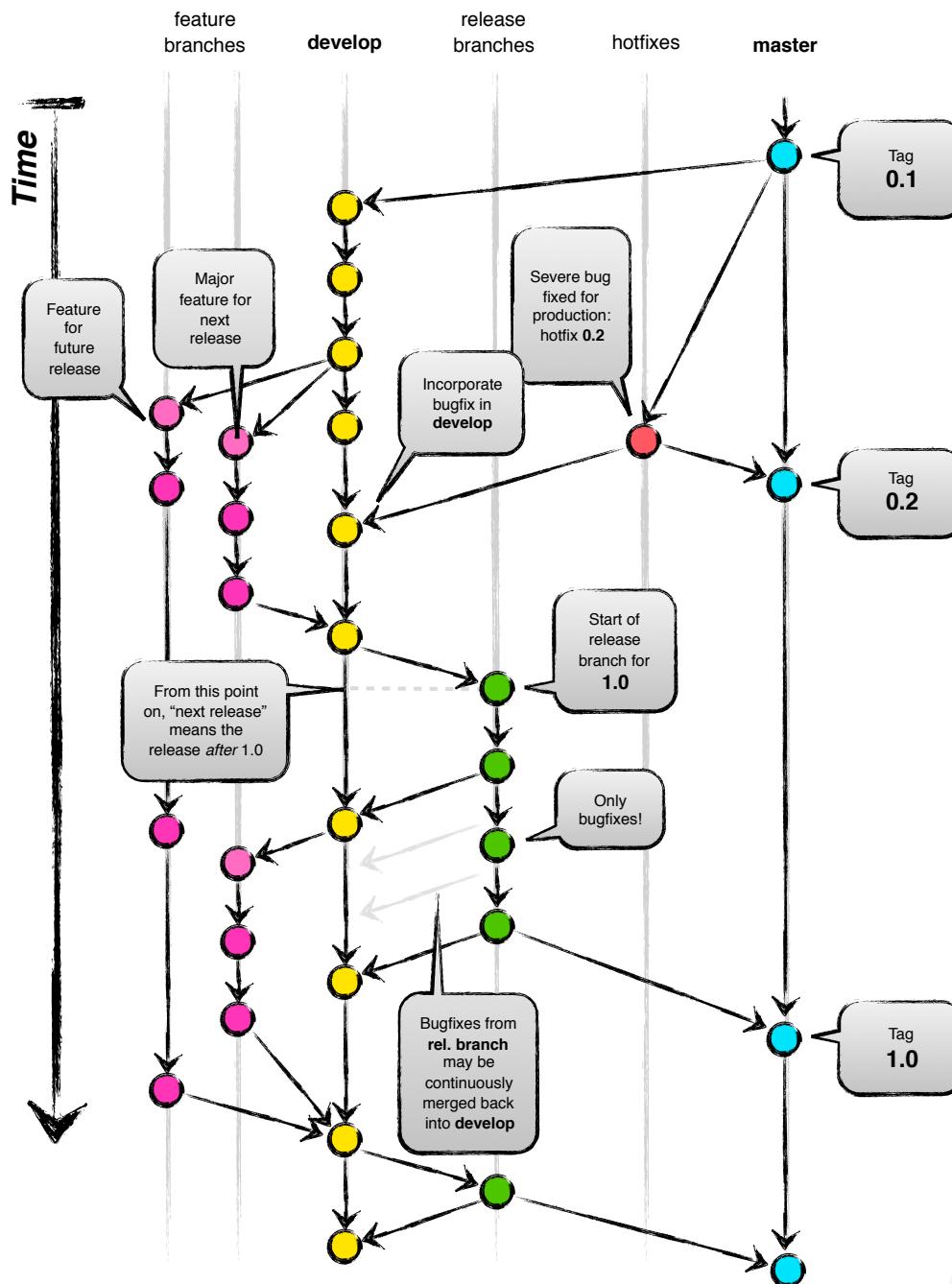


Traffic data from the SU2 GitHub repository.

# It's bright where we're headed.

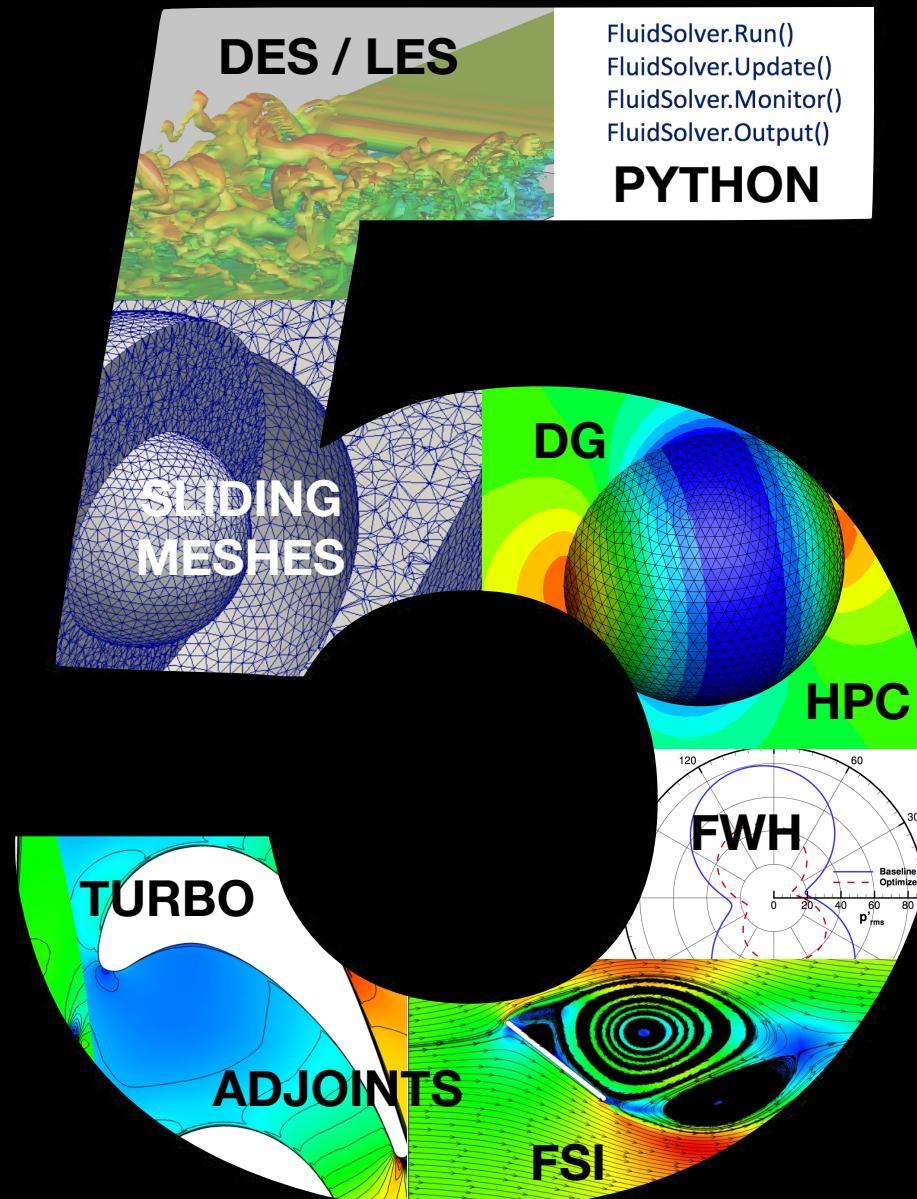
How do we get there? Scalable development practices.

- How do we avoid code conflicts?
  - **Branching model in git for decentralized, parallel development**
- How does one contribute code contributions to the repo?
  - **Pull requests through GitHub**
- Quality assurance?
  - **Automatic, pre-merge regression testing (Travis CI) and code reviews**
- How do we minimize the overhead of software development in a research environment?
  - **All of the above + streamlined release process at regular, frequent intervals**



Author: Vincent Driessen  
 Original blog post: <http://nvie.com/archives/323>  
 License: Creative Commons





SU2 turns 5 next January. Here's a sneak peak at *just some* of the things we're working on...

# What have we learned together in 5 years?

- Work on something you believe in and, commit yourself to create the best SU2.
- Success is not achieved by starting a risky venture, you must endure to the end.
- Learn lessons from the past (good or bad) and challenge prior assumptions.
- Seek cross-functional solutions and learn from others.
- Avoid the comfortable audiences, listen to ideas that are different.
- Be tactful, learn to make a point without making an enemy.
- Be careful with the “NIH” culture. Do not reinvent the wheel.
- Recognize a job well done.
- Don’t be a victim of the SU2 code. Take risks, be tenacious, enthusiastic and supportive.
- Fulfill all your obligations to be in an awesome open-source community.

# Dear Developers,



Thank you for being committed.

# 1<sup>st</sup> Annual SU2 Developers Meeting

Sept 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016

TU Delft, AULA Conference Center, Commissie Kamer 3  
Mekelweg 5, 2628 CC Delft, Netherlands



## Meeting Agenda

**09.00 – 09.15: Welcome & Introduction**

**09.15 – 09.35: SU2: Overview of History, Status, and Future Developments**

*Prof. Juan J. Alonso & Dr. Thomas D. Economon, Stanford University*

**09.35 – 10.00: NICFD (Non Ideal Compressible Fluid Dynamics) in the SU2 Framework**

*Prof. Alberto Guardone, Politecnico di Milano (presenter), Profs. Piero Colonna & Matteo Pini, TU Delft*

**10.00 – 10.25: Automatic Differentiation Discrete Adjoints Using SU2**

*Prof. Nicolas Gauger, TU Kaiserslautern*

**10.25 – 10.35: Coffee Break**

**10.35 – 11.00: Development of a High-Order Discontinuous Galerkin Fluid Solver Within SU2**

*Prof. Edwin van der Weide, University of Twente*

**11.00 – 11.25: Fluid-Structure Interaction Problems Using Native and External Structural Solvers Coupled to SU2**

*Prof. Rafael Palacios (presenter) & Mr. Ruben Sánchez, Imperial College, Prof. Vincent Terrapon & Mr. David Thomas, Université de Liège*

**11.25 – 11.50: Turbomachinery Simulations Using SU2**

*Profs. Matteo Pini (presenter) & Piero Colonna, Mr. Salvatore Vitale, Mr. Antonio Rubino, TU Delft Prof. Alberto Guardone, Mr. Giulio Gori Politecnico di Milano*

**11.50 – 12.15: Mesh Adaptation for SU2 with the INRIA AMG Library**

*Prof. Juan J. Alonso & Dr. Thomas D. Economon, Stanford University*

**12.15 – 12.45: SU2 Development Priorities for the Next Year / Discussion**

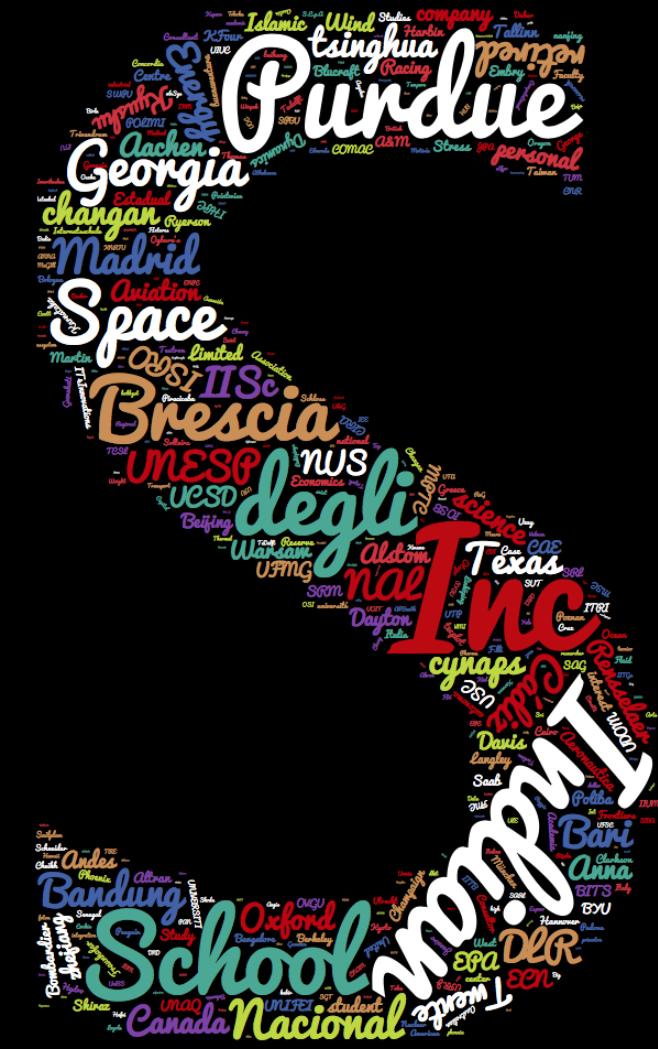
*Prof. Juan J. Alonso (moderator), all attendees*

In order to participate (in-person or virtually), please register for the meeting by following the link on the SU2 home page (<http://su2.stanford.edu>).

Thanks for your interest and note that all stated times are Central European Summer Time (CEST).

To find more information about SU2 or to get involved, please visit the following pages:

- SU2 on GitHub: <https://github.com/su2code/SU2>
- SU2 Forum on CFD Online: <http://www.cfd-online.com/Forums/su2/>
- Follow SU2 on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/su2code>



Institutions that have downloaded SU2. Sized by frequency.