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# Coupling lattice Boltzmann and continuum equations for flow and reactive transport in porous media.

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## Rough Heuristics

Continuum grid size:

- pore throats 4 – 8 unknowns  $\rightarrow$  30 unknowns per grain + throat
  - $\sim 10$  “grains” to form REV
- $\hookrightarrow \sim \mathbf{300^2}$  **unknowns**, per continuum REV (in 2D)

Time constraints:

- LB requires  $v/c \ll 1 \approx 10^{-1}$
- $\hookrightarrow \sim \mathbf{3 \times 10^3}$  timesteps to cross a single continuum cell.

Basic continuum problem:  $100^2$  continuum cells

- $\hookrightarrow \sim \mathbf{3 \times 10^5}$  timesteps to cross continuum domain
- $\hookrightarrow \sim \mathbf{3000^2}$  unknowns in domain

For a  $10 \mu\text{m}$  grid size, our domain is  $\sim 30$  cm, and (assuming water) ran for  $\sim 50$  s.

**$\sim 1$  hour on 512 CPU cores.**

## Pore-scale methodology: the Lattice Boltzmann Method

- Why the LB method?
  - Fully parallel algorithm
  - Easy to implement in complex geometries
  - Interfacial dynamics are automatic (no interface tracking)
- Single phase LB method:
  - Solves the discrete Boltzmann eq. for a distribution of particles  $f_i(\mathbf{x}, t)$

$$\underbrace{f_i(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{e}_i \Delta t, t + \Delta t) - f_i(\mathbf{x}, t)}_{\text{Streaming}} = \underbrace{\Lambda [f_i^{eq}(\mathbf{x}, t) - f_i(\mathbf{x}, t)]}_{\text{Collision}}$$

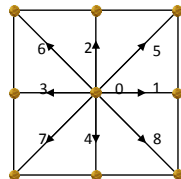
- $\mathbf{e}_i$  is the discretized velocity
- $f_i^{eq}$  is the equilibrium distribution function
- $\Lambda$  is the relaxation operator

$$\rho = \sum_i f_i \quad \rho \mathbf{u} = \sum_i f_i \mathbf{e}_i \quad p = c_s^2 \rho \quad \nu = c_s^2 (\tau - 0.5) \Delta t$$

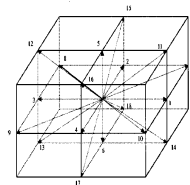
- Navier-Stokes:

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{u}) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial (\rho \mathbf{u})}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{u} \mathbf{u}) = -\nabla p + \nabla \cdot \left[ \mu \left( \nabla \mathbf{u} + (\nabla \mathbf{u})^T \right) \right]$$



D2Q9



D3Q19

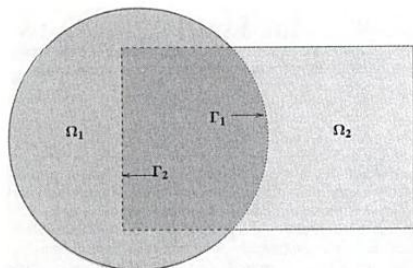
# Taxila LBM

<https://software.lanl.gov/taxila/trac>

- Brings together many advances in the LBM from LANL into a single software framework.
- Released as open source software to further enhance collaboration and engage the LB community.
- *Taxila*:
  - solves both single-, multi-phase and multicomponent flow in complex geometries for in 2D and 3D.
  - demonstrates strong scaling to hundreds of thousands of cores.
  - leverages the Portable, Extensible Toolkit for Scientific Computation (PETSc) for data structures, communication, and parallel I/O.
- Coupled to PFloTran, which allows for micro-scale reactive transport modeling and hybrid, multi-scale modeling.

# Overlapping domain decomposition

(Schwarz 1870)

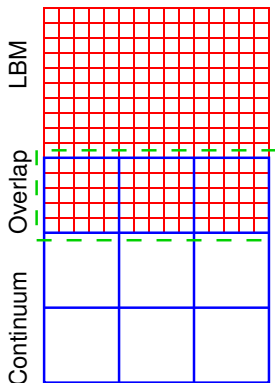


Schwarz

- Initially applied to identical equations in each domain as a method of solving complex domains.
- Can apply to different physical equations, assuming the physics are equivalent in the overlap region.

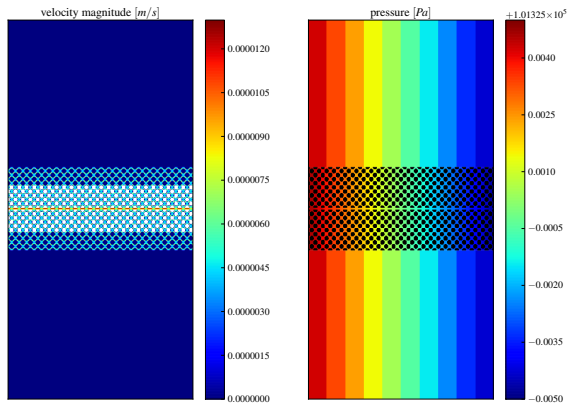
## Hybrid solution process

**Idea:** use overlapping domain decomposition with an overlap where the pore-scale Navier-Stokes system upscales to the continuum Darcy system.



- Calculate consistent properties within the overlap ( $\phi, K$ )
- Initialize pressure, flow everywhere, setting boundary conditions from the initial condition.
- do  $t = 0 \dots t_{final}$ :
  - Advance each subdomain by  $\Delta t$  using BCs
  - Interpolate continuum domain pressure to form BC for LBM.
  - Integrate LBM mass flux (or pressure) to form BC for Continuum.

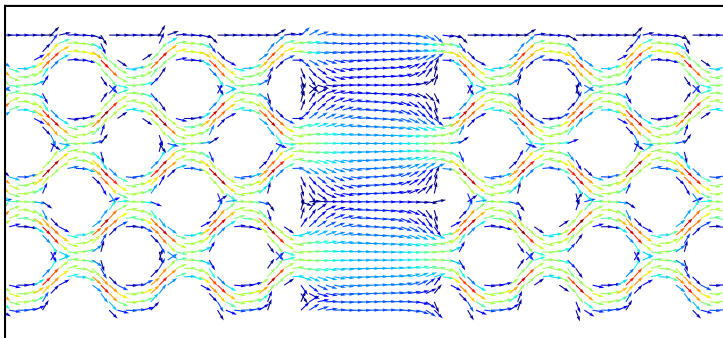
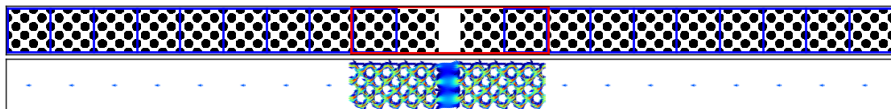
## Verification: Flow along a fracture



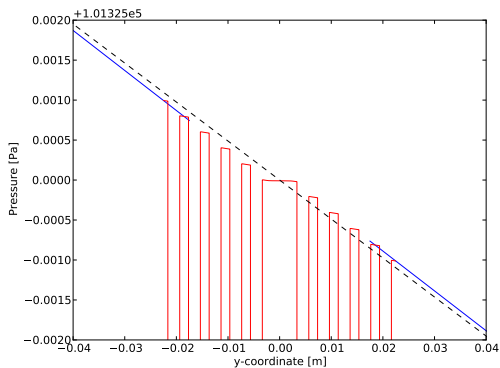
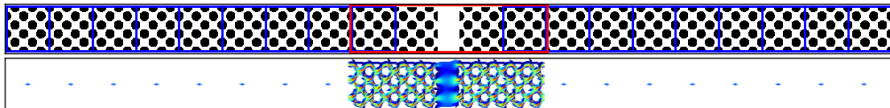
- LB domain of resolution 1000x400, continuum domains with resolution 10x10
- Mean velocity in the LBM domain (including zero velocity in the wall nodes) are equal to the Darcy velocity in the overlap region.
- Verification: Total flux of the hybrid calculation is equal (to tolerance) to the total flux of a LB simulation on the full domain.



## Flow across a fracture

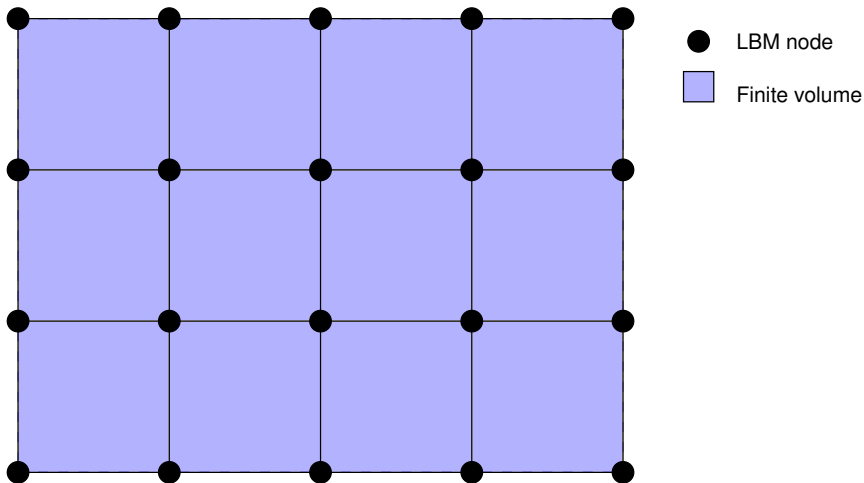


## Flow across a fracture (left to right)

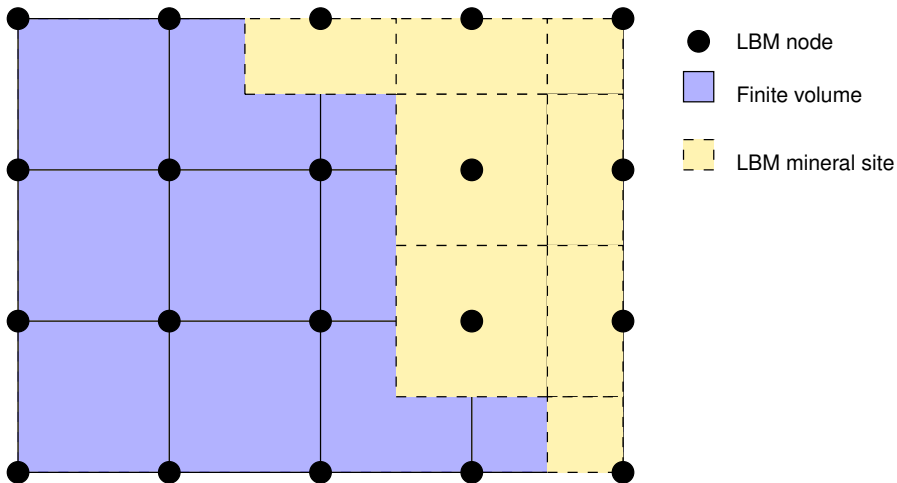


Pressure field across the fracture in the continuum region (blue) and pore-scale region (red).

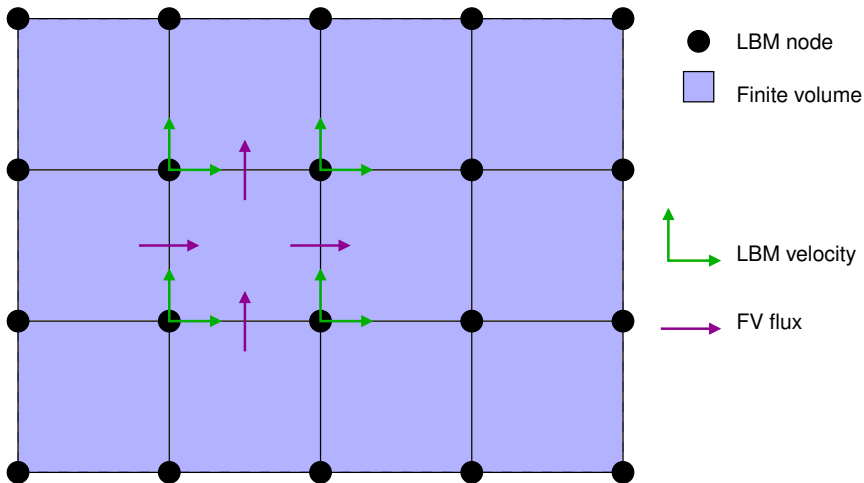
## Porescale chemistry: Coupling LBM (flow) to PFLOTRAN (reactive transport)



## Porescale chemistry: Coupling LBM (flow) to PFLOTTRAN (reactive transport)



## Porescale chemistry: Coupling LBM (flow) to PFLOTRAN (reactive transport)



# Hybrid Extension to Reactive Transport

## Conclusions

### *Introduction and Motivation*

- In spatially and temporally localized instances, capturing sub-reservoir scale information is necessary.
- Capturing sub-reservoir scale information everywhere is neither necessary, nor computationally possible.

### *The lattice Boltzmann Method for solving pore-scale systems.*

- At the pore-scale, LBM provides an extremely scalable, efficient way of solving Navier-Stokes equations on complex geometries.

### *Coupling pore-scale and continuum scale systems via domain decomposition.*

- By leveraging the interpolations implied by pore-scale and continuum scale discretizations, overlapping Schwartz domain decomposition is used to ensure continuity of pressure and flux.
- This approach is demonstrated on a fractured medium, in which Navier-Stokes equations are solved within the fracture while Darcy's equation is solved away from the fracture
- Coupling reactive transport to pore-scale flow simulators allows hybrid approaches to be extended to solve multi-scale reactive transport.