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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 → 30 unknowns per grain + throat
- ~ 10 “grains” to form REV
 - ↪ $\sim 300^2$ **unknowns**, per continuum REV (in 2D)

Time constraints:

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

Basic continuum problem: 100^2 continuum cells

- ↪ $\sim 3 \times 10^5$ timesteps to cross continuum domain
- ↪ $\sim 3000^2$ unknowns in domain

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

$\sim 1 \text{ hour on 512 CPU cores.}$

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 $f_i(\mathbf{x}, t)$

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

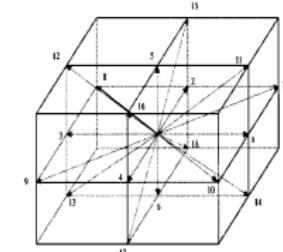
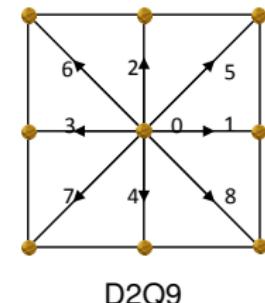
- \mathbf{e}_i is the discretized velocity
- f_i^{eq} is the equilibrium distribution function
- Λ is the relaxation operator

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

- Navier-Stokes:

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

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



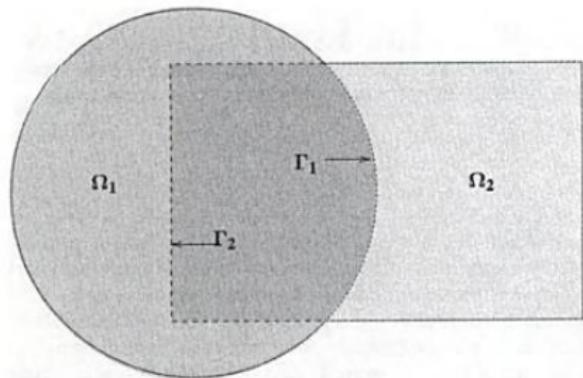
Taxila LBM

<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)

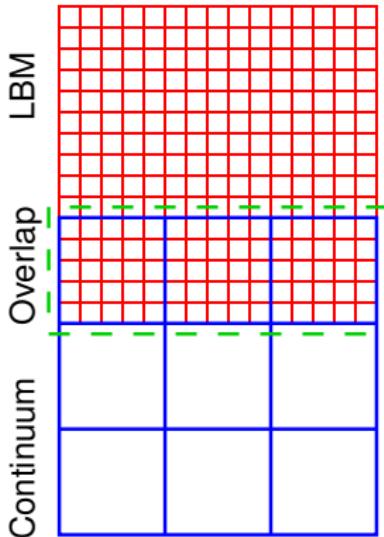


Schwarz

- 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.

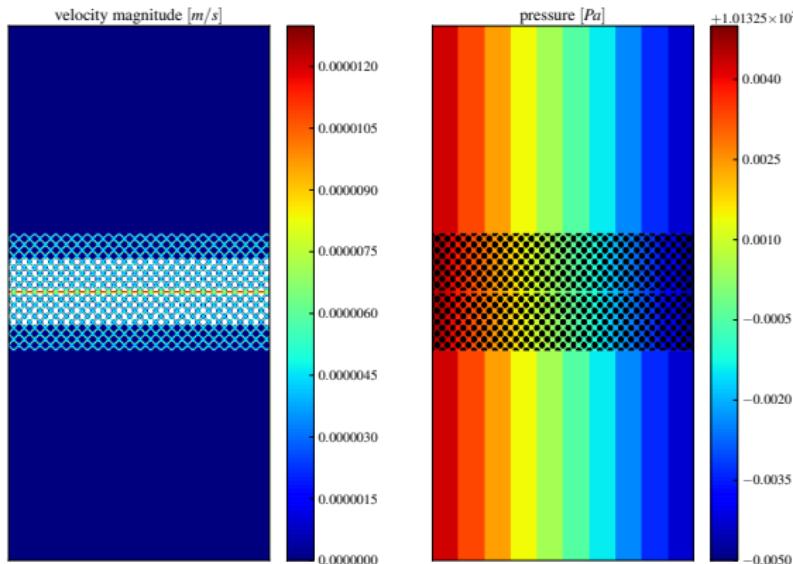
Hybrid solution process

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



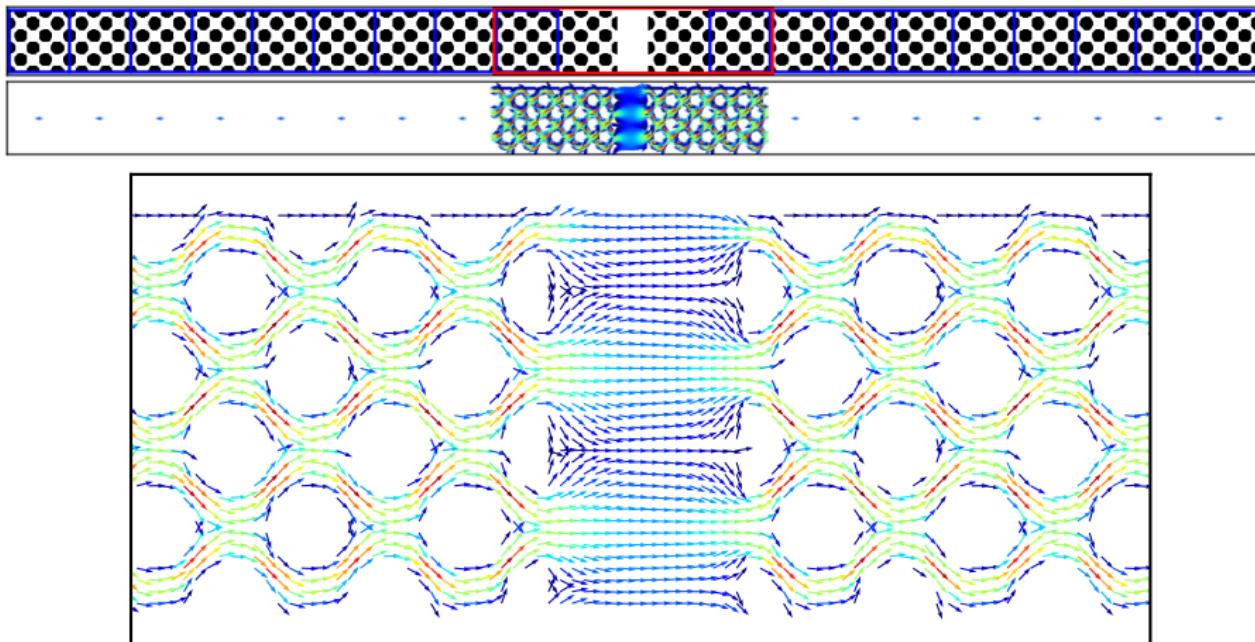
- Calculate consistent properties within the overlap (ϕ, K)
- Initialize pressure, flow everywhere, setting boundary conditions from the initial condition.
- do $t = 0 \dots t_{final}$:
 - Advance each subdomain by Δt using BCs
 - Interpolate continuum domain pressure to form BC for LBM.
 - Integrate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

Verification: Flow along a fracture

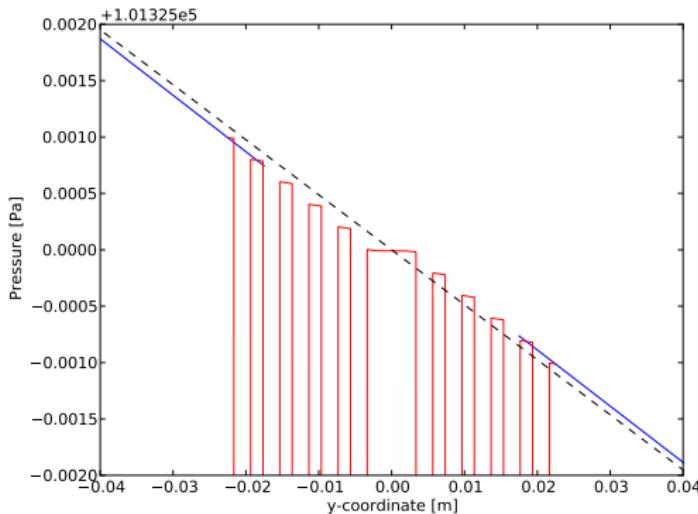
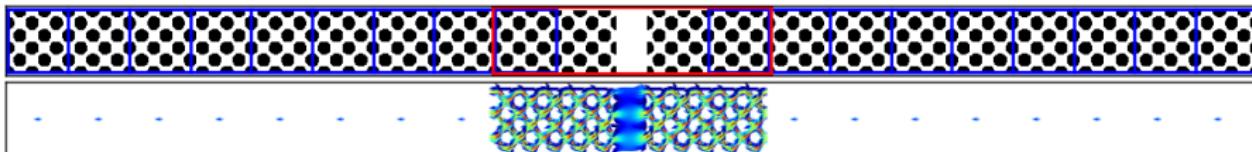


- LB domain of resolution 1000x400, continuum domains with resolution 10x10
- Mean velocity in the LBM domain (including zero velocity in the wall nodes) are equal to the Darcy velocity in the overlap region.
- Verification: Total flux of the hybrid calculation is equal (to tolerance) to the total flux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

Flow across a fracture

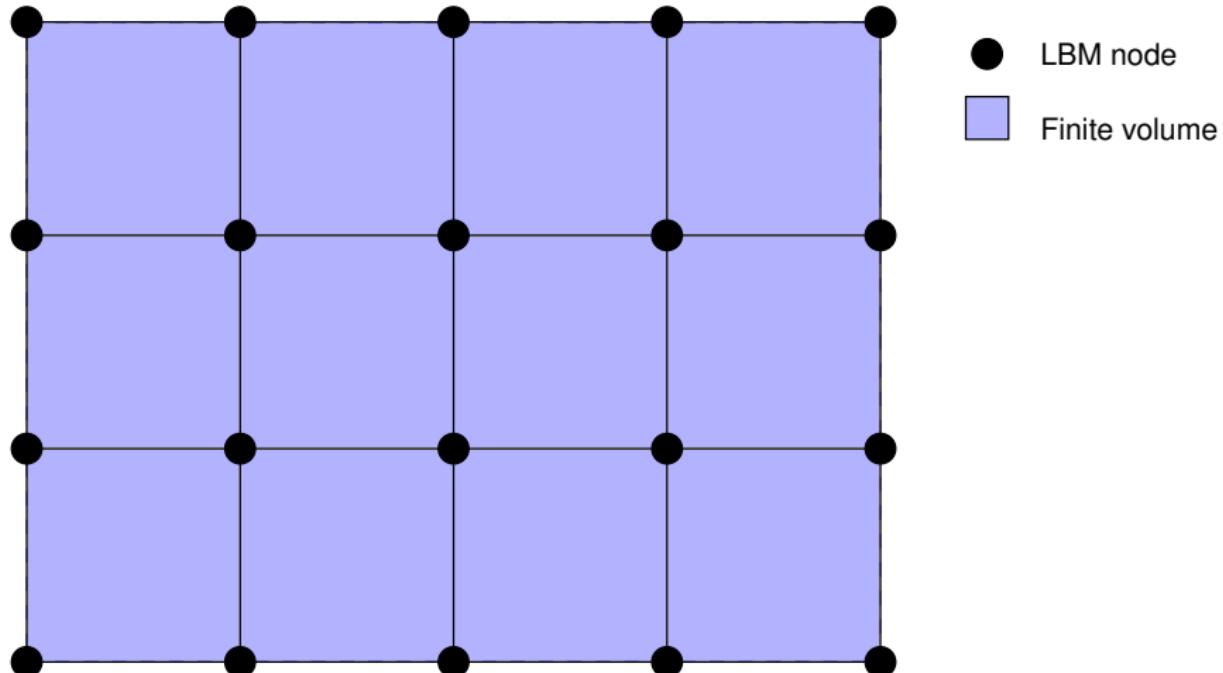


Flow across a fracture (left to right)

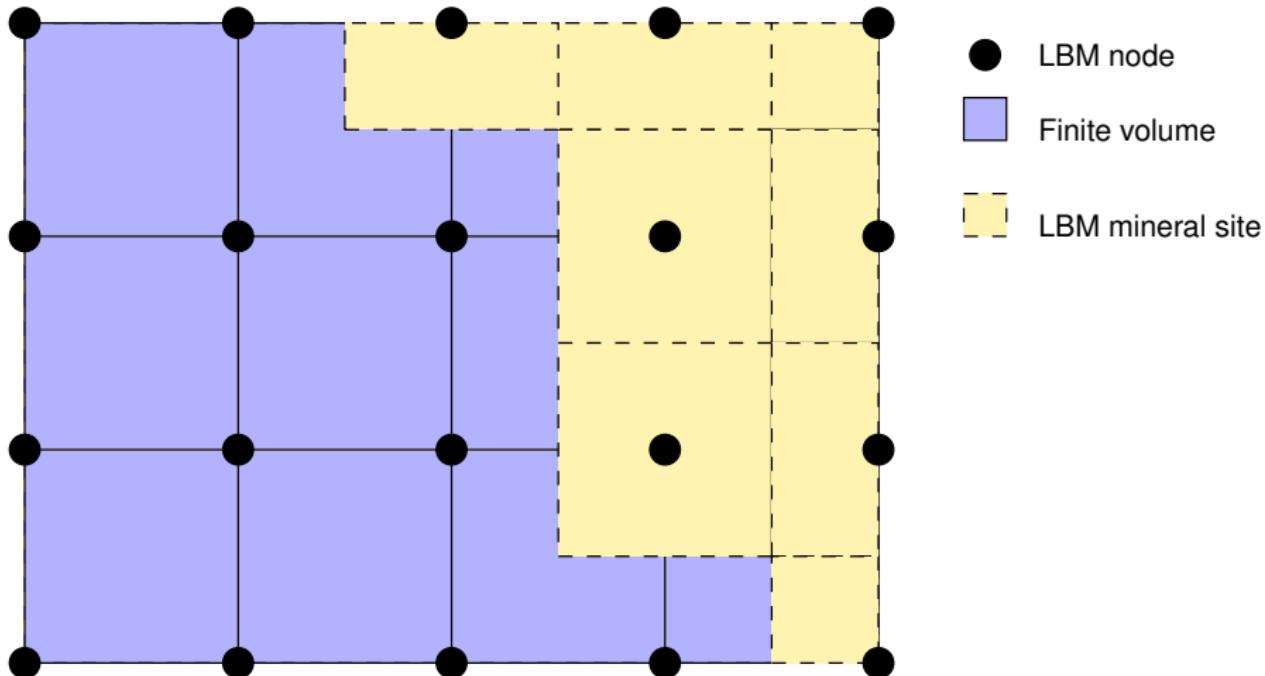


Pressure field across the fracture in the continuum region (blue) and pore-scale region (red).

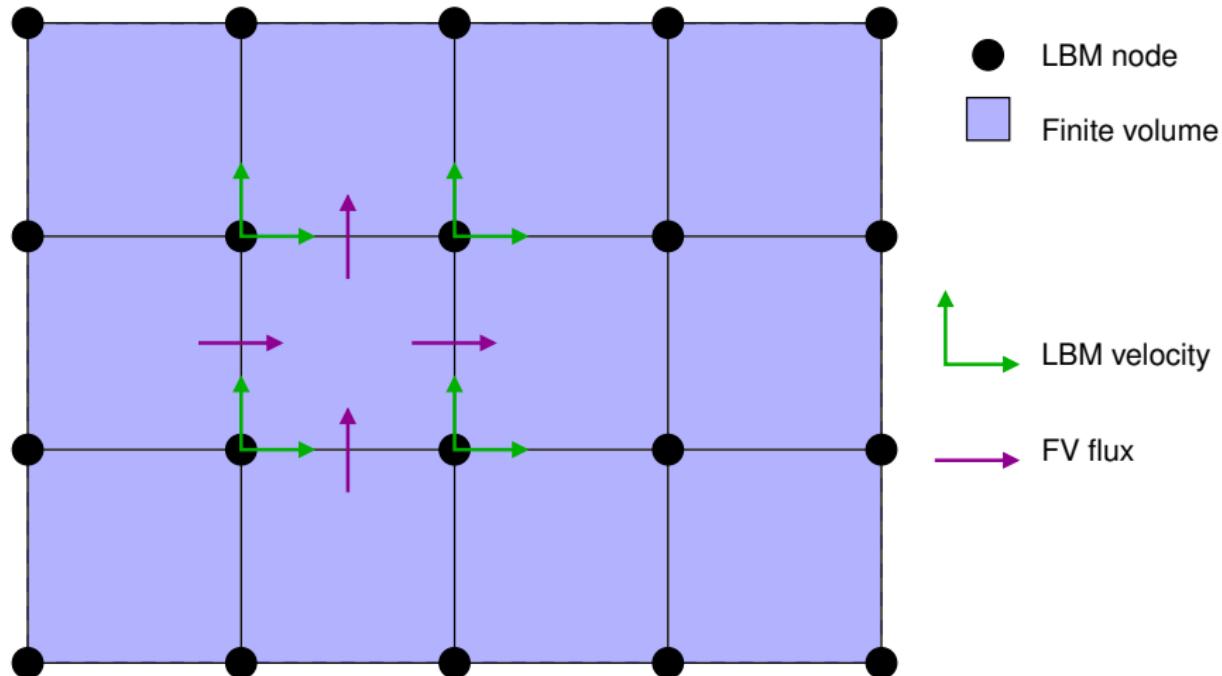
Porescale chemistry: Coupling LBM (flow) to PFLOTRAN (reactive transport)



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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.