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# The tilted rocket rig: A test case for Los Alamos models

Jon Reisner, Nick Dennisen, Bertrand Rollin, and Malcolm  
Andrews

- The tilted rig setup is a unique data source to test a given model's ability to simulate Rayleigh Taylor (RT) and Kelvin Helmholtz (KH) instabilities
- Can be used to assess both implicit large eddy simulation (ILES) and Reynolds averaged Navier-Stokes (RANS) modeling approaches used in a common mix framework

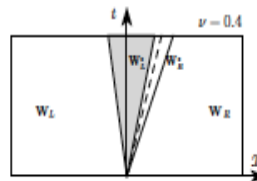
# LANL Advanced Simulation and Computing (ASC) Codes

- LANL has 3 ASC codes, xRage, Flag, and Roxane
- Besides xRage using a total energy equation, the gas dynamic equation sets are similar---compressible Navier-Stokes with species energy/mass equations
- Results will be shown from xRage and Flag
- xRage uses a modified Godunov scheme
- Flag uses an ALE approach

# Problems with Contacts?

## Shock Tube Test: Le Blanc's Problem

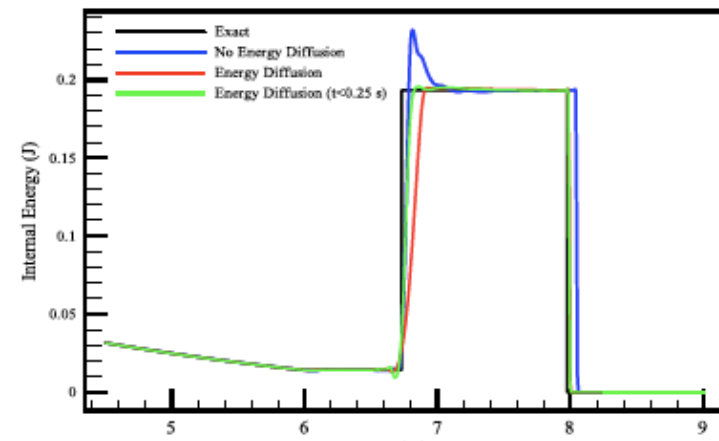
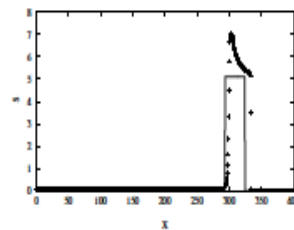
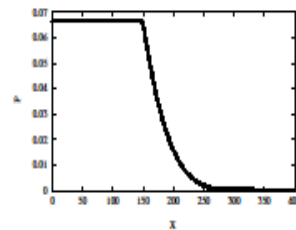
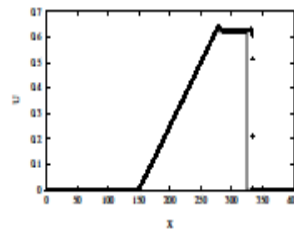
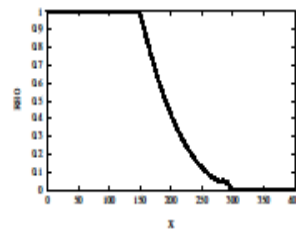
$\rho_l = 1$	$\rho_r = 0.001$
$u_l = 0$	$u_r = 0$
$p_l = 0.06667$	$p_r = 6.667e-10$
$\gamma_l = 1.667$	$\gamma_r = 1.667$



A variation on LeBlanc's shock-tube problem.

**Scheme** xrage::1d

**Solver** numrho6



**Solution: Add artificial viscosity to energy equation?**

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# Common Mix Framework

- *Goal:* Develop a consistent framework to test mix formulations across ASC codes
- *Methodology:* Start simple with a common BHR-II code base, validate and verify, add complexity if needed
- *Expected Results:* A framework that accurately represents mixing across a range of instabilities and is model independent...

# What is BHR?

- BHR is a variable density turbulence model
- Formulated by assuming ensemble averaging
- Various formulations exist from simple BHR-II (TKE,  $L$ ,  $a_i$ , and  $b$ ) to complex multi-species approaches ( $a_i^k, b^k$ )

# Why BHR-II to Comprise Common Mix Framework?

- Small number of tuning coefficients and numerical efficiency
- Ease of implementation across ASC codes
- Successful validation of the approach
- Numerical errors are relative small
- Future Capability: BHR-MS, BHR energy terms, matrix form of length scale  $S_{ij}$ , etc...

# BHR-II

## A Common Mix Framework Across ASC Models

$$\bar{\rho} \frac{DK}{Dt} = a_j \frac{\partial \bar{\rho}}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left( \frac{\mu_T}{\sigma_k} \frac{\partial K}{\partial x_j} \right) - R_{ij} \frac{\partial \tilde{u}_i}{\partial x_j} - C_k \bar{\rho} \frac{K^{3/2}}{L} \quad (\text{turbulence kinetic energy})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\rho} \frac{DL}{Dt} = & \frac{L}{K} \left[ \left( \frac{3}{2} - C_4 \right) a_j \frac{\partial \bar{\rho}}{\partial x_j} - \left( \frac{3}{2} - C_4 \right) R_{ij} \frac{\partial \tilde{u}_i}{\partial x_j} \right] - C_3 \bar{\rho} L \frac{\partial \tilde{u}_j}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left( \frac{\mu_T}{\sigma_L} \frac{\partial L}{\partial x_j} \right) \\ & - \left( \frac{3}{2} - C_2 \right) \bar{\rho} K^{1/2} \quad (\text{turbulent length scale}) \end{aligned}$$

$$\bar{\rho} \frac{Da_i}{Dt} = b \frac{\partial \bar{\rho}}{\partial x_i} + \bar{\rho} \frac{\partial a_i a_j}{\partial x_j} - \bar{\rho} a_j \frac{\partial (\tilde{u}_i - a_i)}{\partial x_i} - \frac{R_{ij}}{\bar{\rho}} \frac{\partial \bar{\rho}}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left( \frac{\mu_T}{\sigma_a} \frac{\partial a_i}{\partial x_j} \right) - C_a \bar{\rho} a_i \frac{K^{1/2}}{L}$$

(density velocity correlation)

$$\bar{\rho} \frac{Db}{Dt} = 2 \bar{\rho} a_j \frac{\partial b}{\partial x_j} - 2(b+1) a_j \frac{\partial \bar{\rho}}{\partial x_j} + \bar{\rho}^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left( \frac{\mu_T}{\bar{\rho}^2 \sigma_b} \frac{\partial b}{\partial x_j} \right) - C_b \bar{\rho} \frac{K^{1/2}}{L} b$$

(density self correlation)

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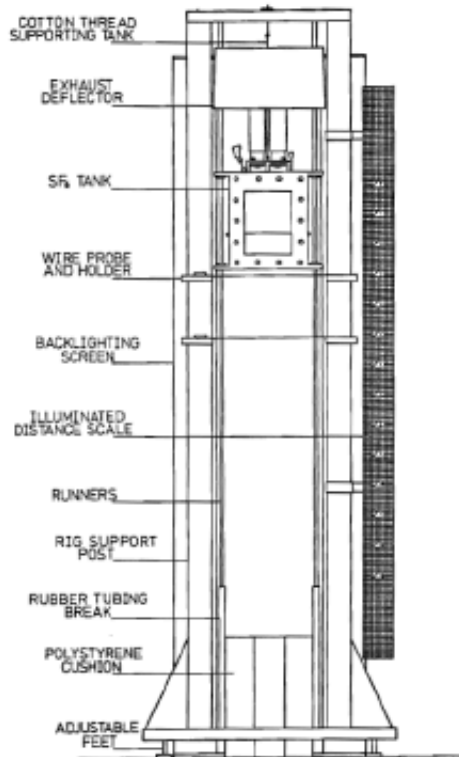
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# A Common Mix Framework: Test Problems

- Tilted RT problem is being tested in xRage and Flag...appropriate for RT and KH instabilities
- Problem has helped in chasing out bugs and implementation issues
- Results compare reasonably well against DNS
- But a definite need exists for test problems that can verify mean and turbulent quantities under a wide range of conditions

# Tilted Rocket Rig



- ▶ Series of experiments from the UK AWE<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ Gravity is “flipped” via downward rocket motors
- ▶ Interested in case 110, low surface tension, significant interface tilt



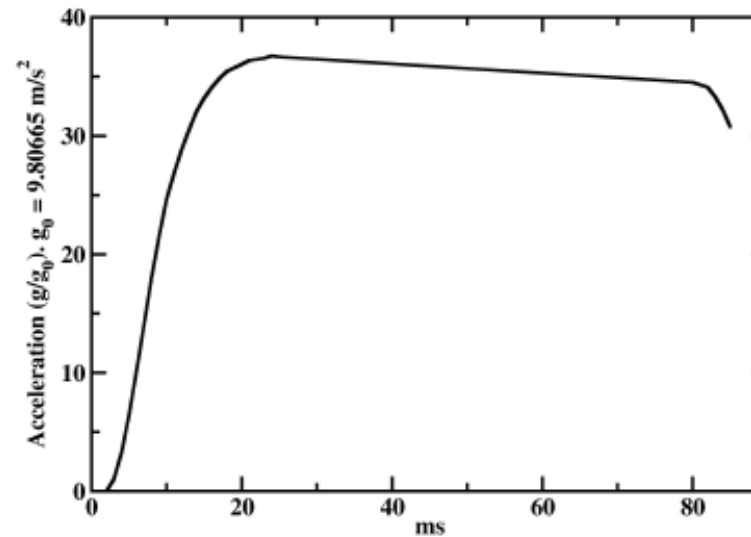
t=55 ms

[1] Smeeton & Youngs, AWE Report No. O 35/87

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# Experimental Setup



$\rho_H$	$\rho_L$	$At$	$L_x$	$L_z$
1.89	0.66	0.48	15	25

Table: Experimental parameters in  
units: cm, g, ms

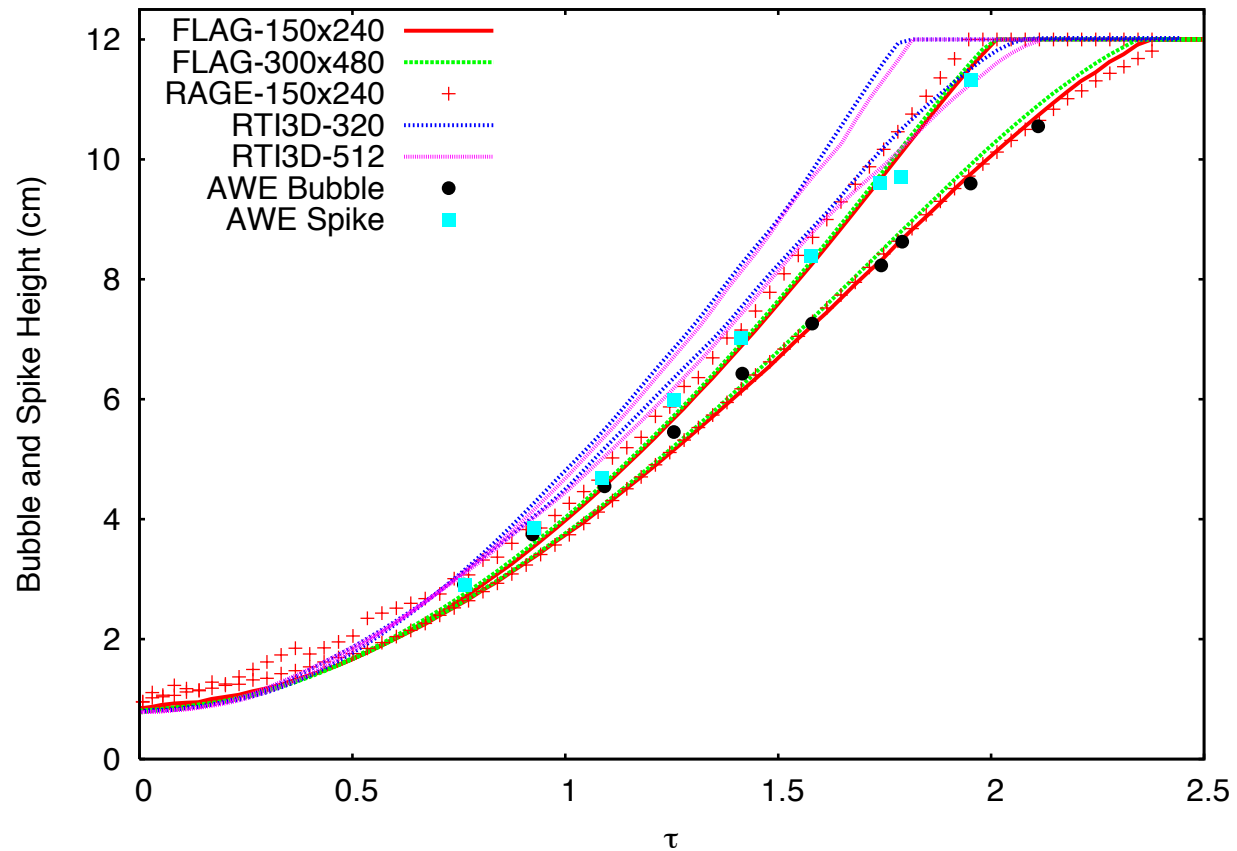
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# Model Setup

- Both xRage and Flag (complete remap-no artificial viscosity) used 150x240 grid points
- BHR-II was used in simulations and a gamma law gas EOS was used in the base simulations
- Flag used similar pressure/temperature to experiment; xRage initially used much higher pressure/temperature
- Preliminary results suggest that xRage does not produce enough mixing

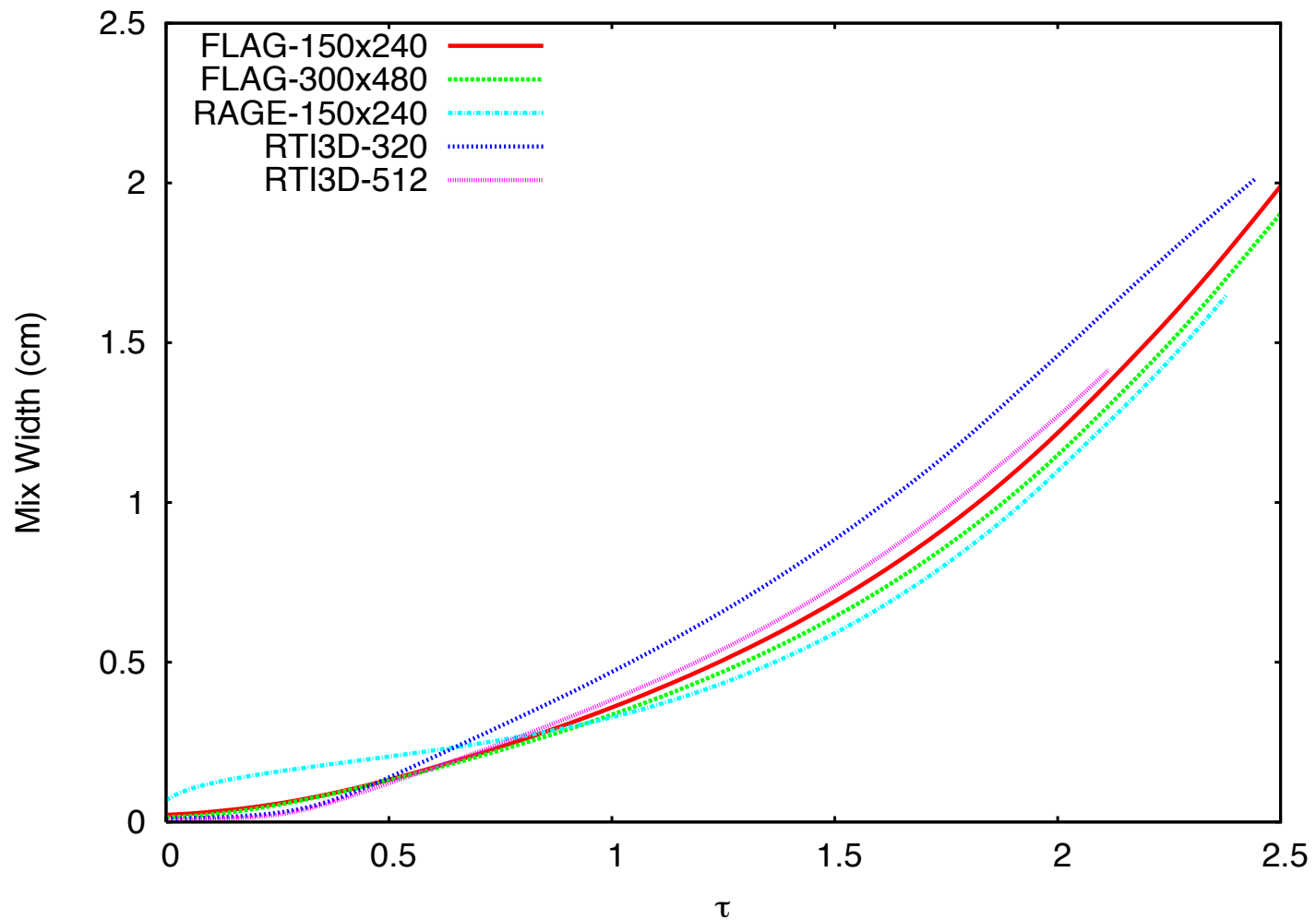
# Bubble/Spike Growth Rates



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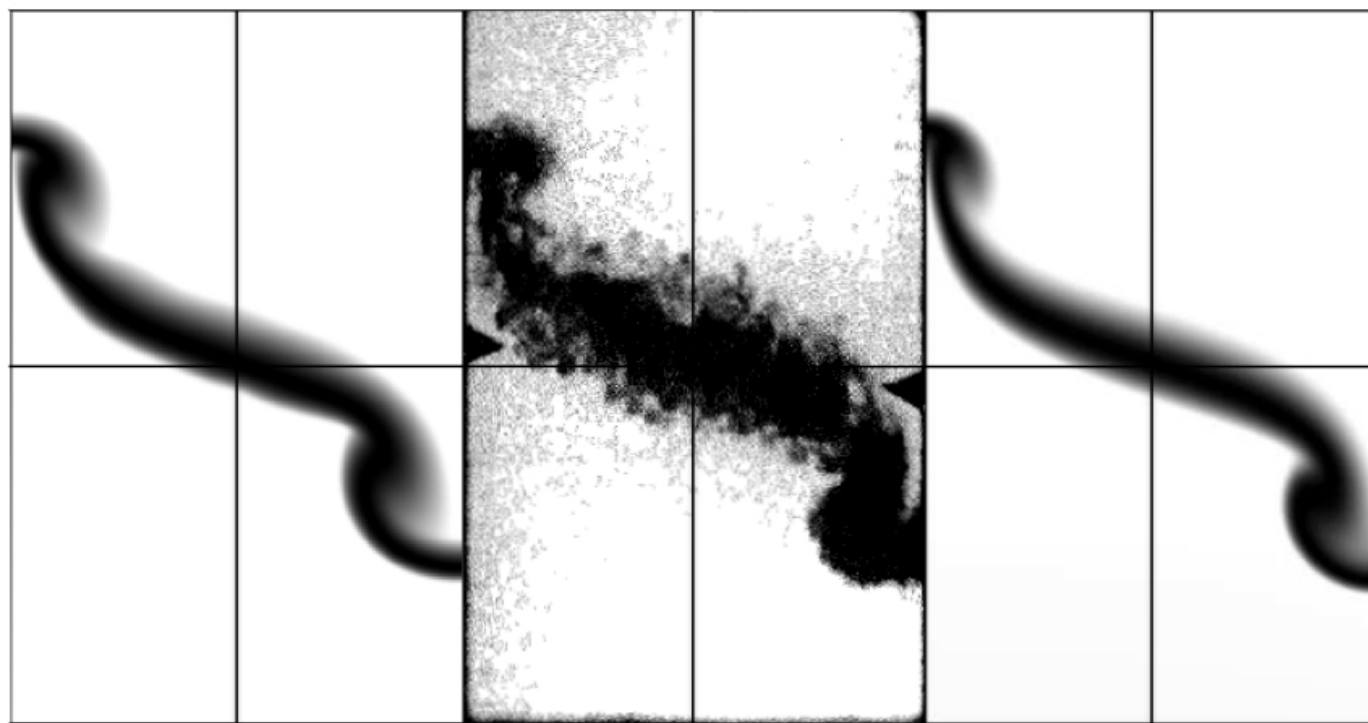
# Integrated Mixing Widths



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# xRage, Experimental, and Flag results at $t=55$ ms (Mixing Parameter)



xRage

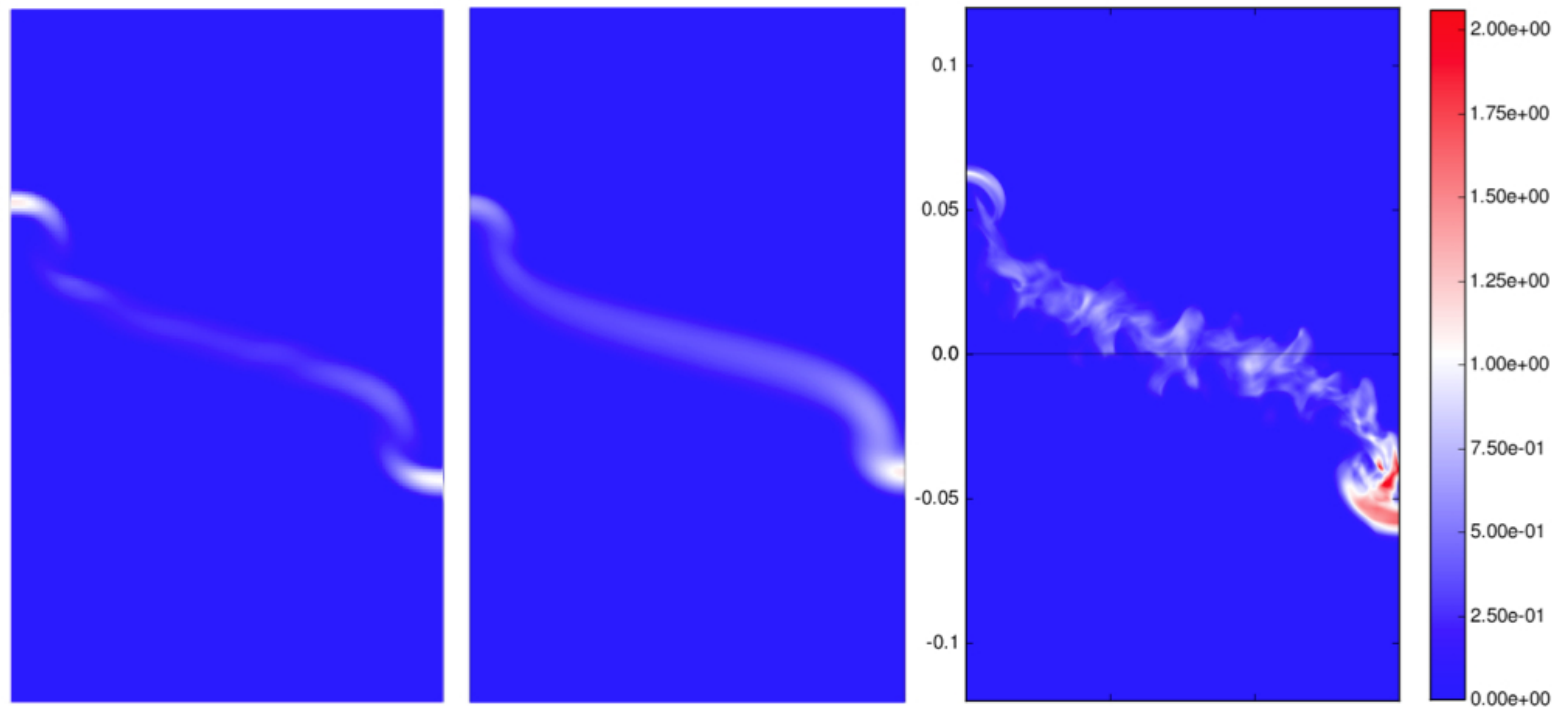
Experimental

Flag

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# xRage, Flag, and CFDNS TKE Results at $t=45$ ms xRage is Symmetric (Why?)



xRage

Flag

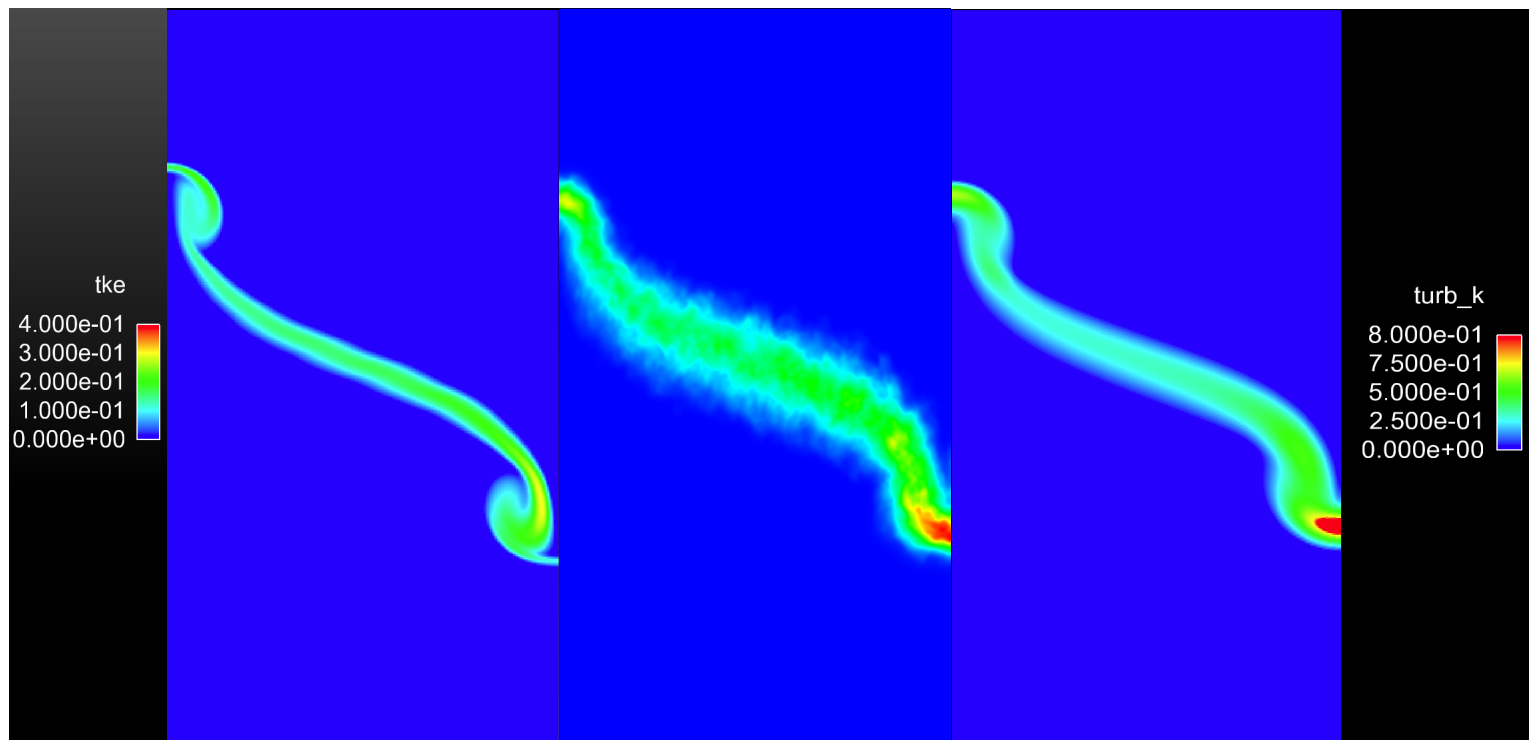
CFDNS-Wei and Livescu

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# Same Findings for Different Tilted Rig Setup



**xRage + BHR mixing model (LEFT), averaged RTI3D (MIDDLE-Andrews) and FLAG + BHR mixing model (RIGHT)**

**Note the different scale only for the xRage figure**

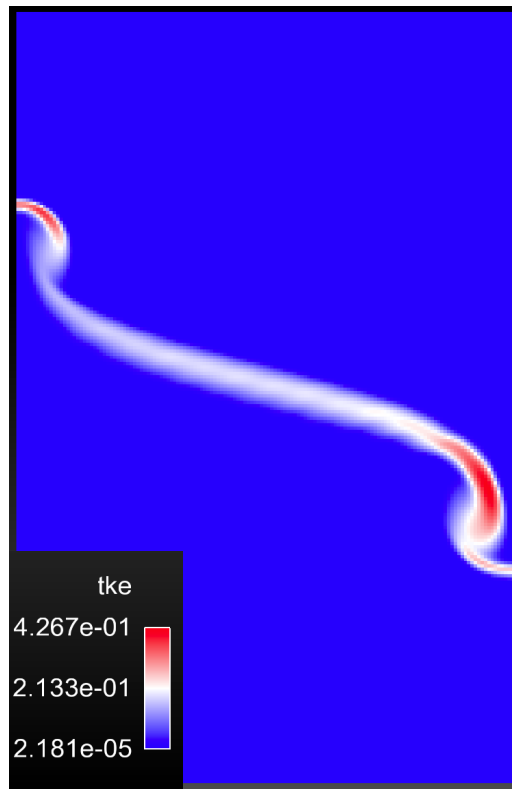
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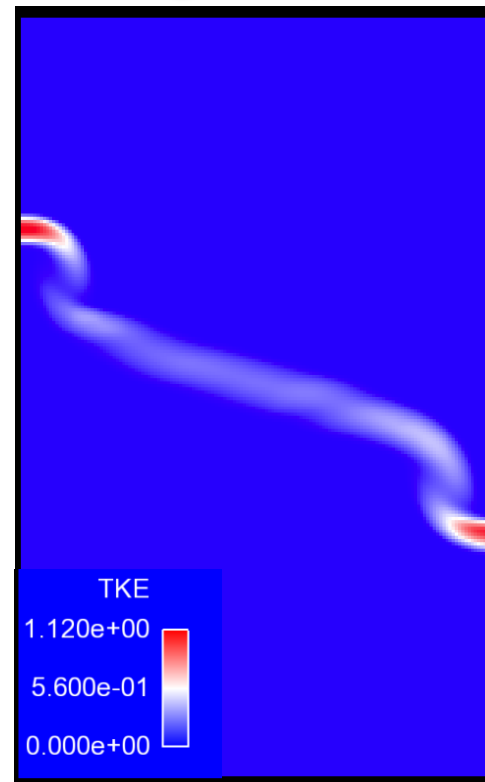
# Why Differences Between Flag and xRage?

- xRages produces sharper features and less turbulent mixing
- BHR-II implementation issues/bugs?
- Differences in initial conditions?
- Numerical issues of base hydro solver...  
check using ILES

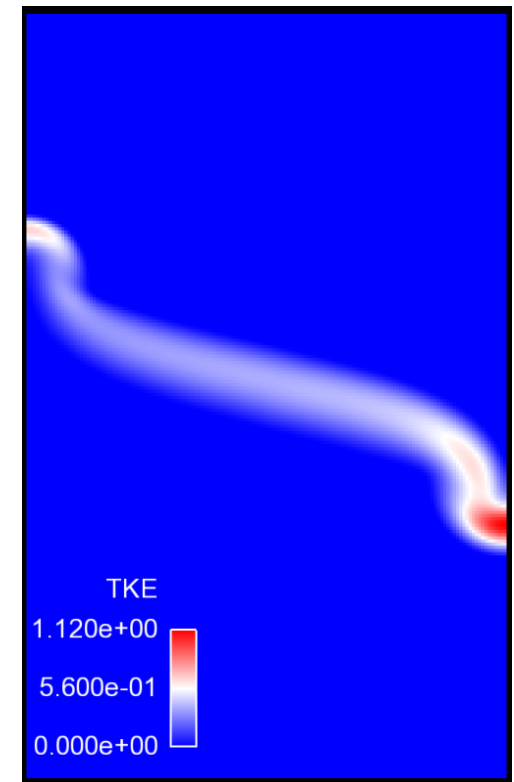
# Impact of Initial Conditions in xRage (TKE)



**xRage with exact FLAG initial  
thermodynamics conditions,  
hydrobet =0 and BHR2.**



**xRage as thermodynamically  
initialized until now, hydrobet  
default value, and BHR2**



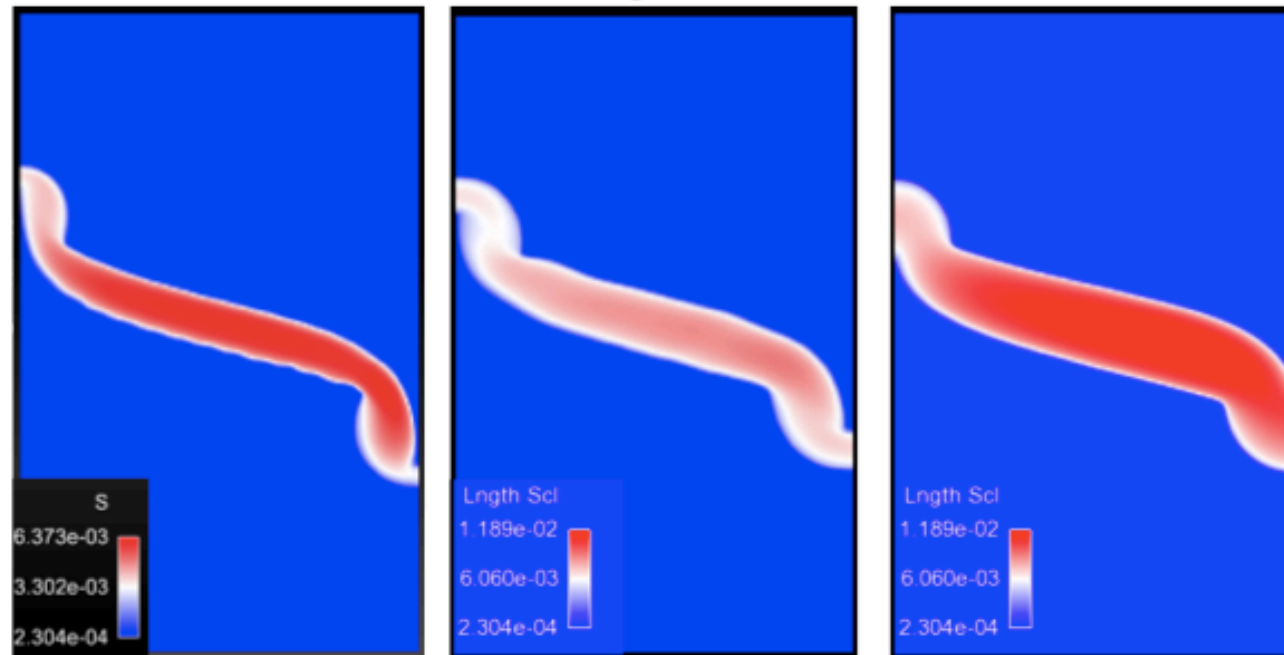
**FLAG and BHR2**

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# Impact of Initial Conditions in xRage (Length Scale)

Turbulence Length Scale @  $t = 45\text{ms}$



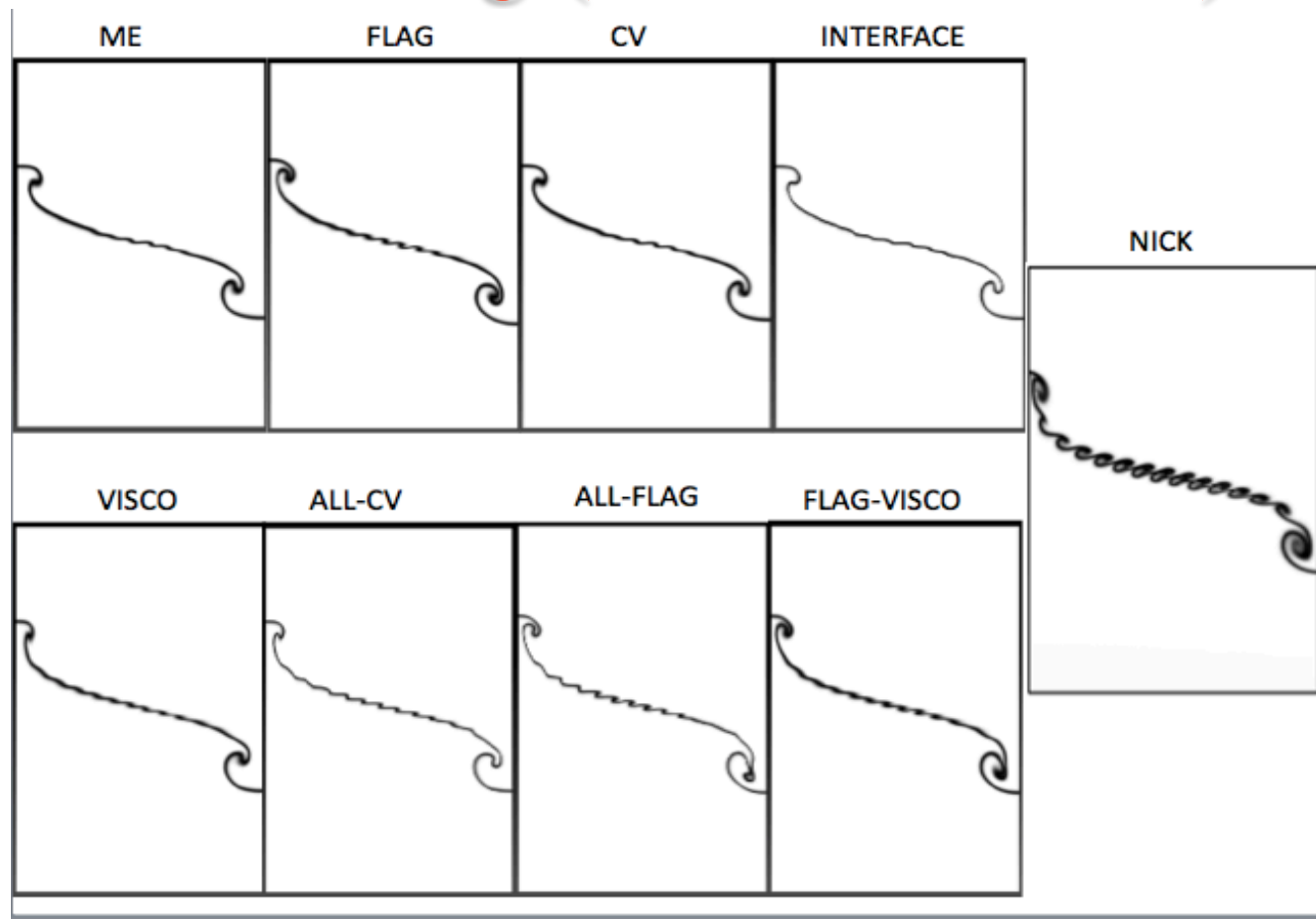
xRage with exact FLAG initial  
thermodynamics conditions,  
hvdrobet = 0 and BHR2.

xRage as thermodynamically  
initialized until now, hvdrobet  
default value, and BHR2

FLAG and BHR2

Use FLAG's scale for comparison

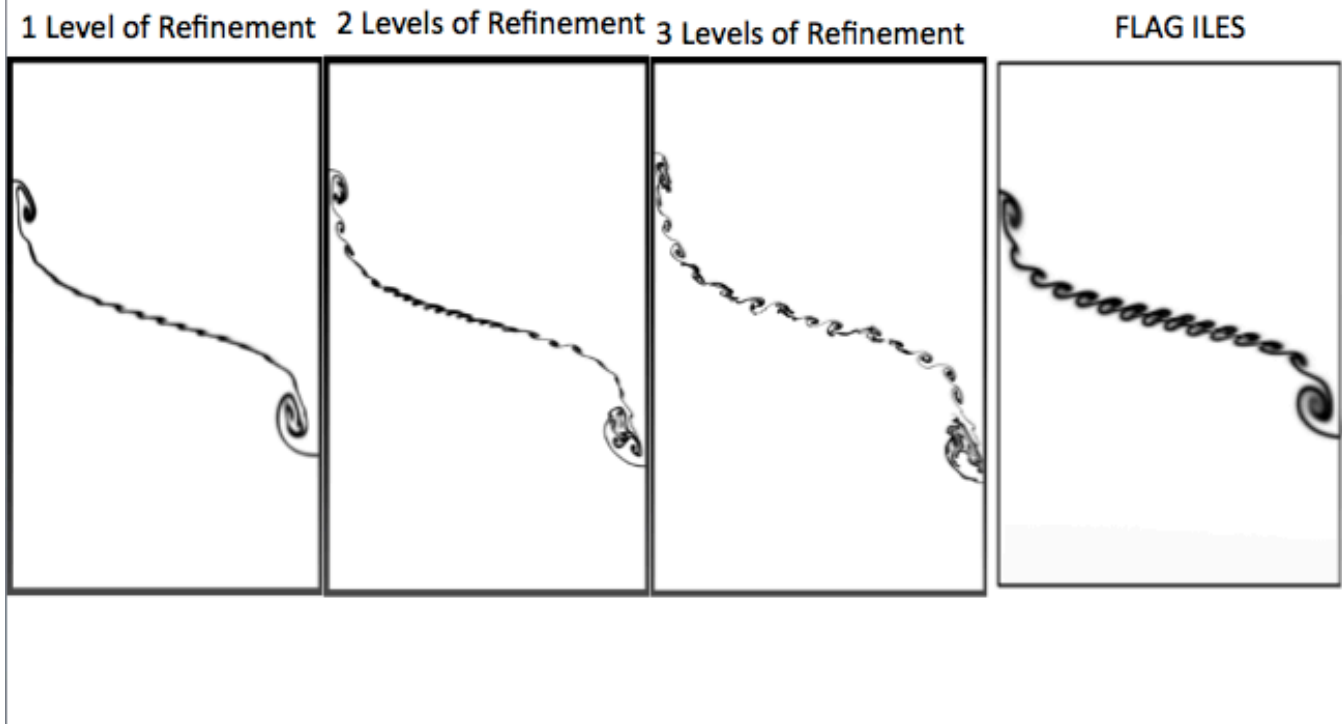
# Various 2-D ILES xRage Results Versus Flag (Labeled NICK)



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# xRage (AMR) Versus Flag

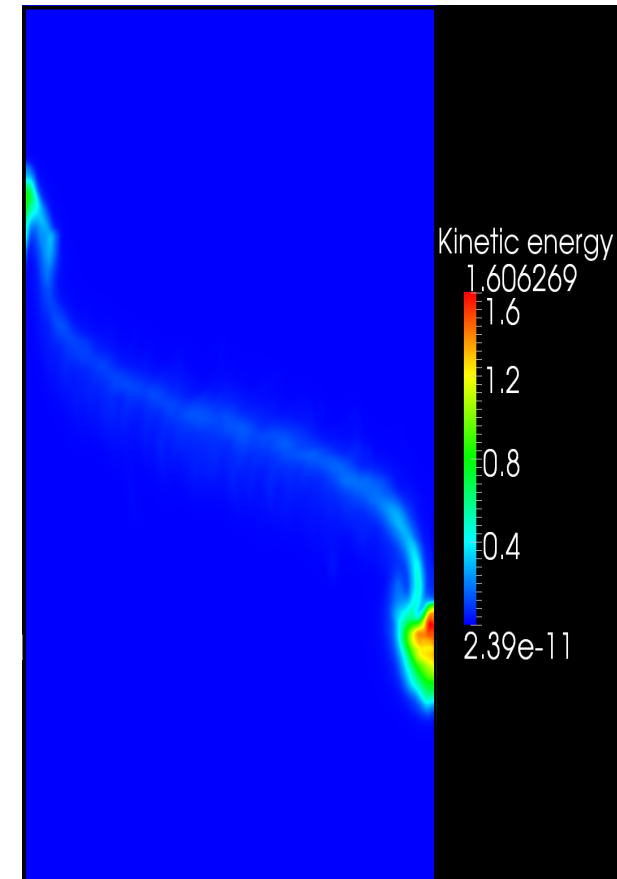
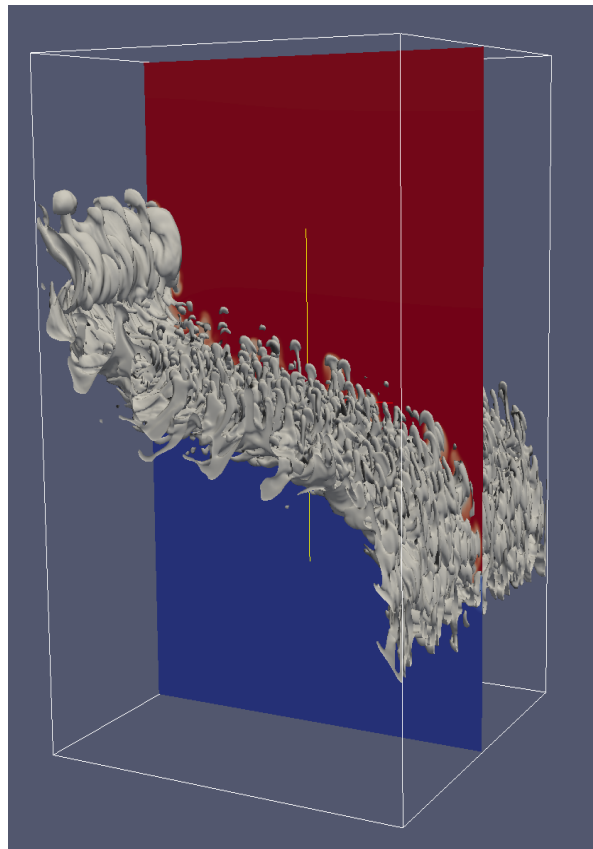


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# 3D-ILES xRage

Still Sharper than Flag but Larger Values of TKE



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# Overview/Questions Raised

- Differences between xRage and Flag appear to be the result of the underlying numerical scheme
- Will these differences increase/decrease for other problems, i.e., Richtmyer-Meshkov instability?
- Will Roxane produce results closer to xRage or Flag?