

SuperCA++  
Supercomputing Applications  
Bansko, Bulgaria  
April 23-24, 2012

Some Issues in Reliable  
High-Performance Simulations  
of Combustion for Engine Applications

Pasqua D'Ambra  
pasqua.dambra@cnr.it



*Institute for High Performance Computing and Networking*

National Research Council of Italy (ICAR-CNR)



Joint Project (2005-2010)



ICAR-CNR  
Naples Branch

&



Engine Institute  
CNR, Naples

**HIGH-PERFORMANCE  
ALGORITHMS AND SOFTWARE  
FOR DIESEL ENGINE MODELING**



---

# Collaborations and Credits

---

- *Laura Antonelli (ICAR)*
- *Paola Belardini (IM)*
- *Claudio Bertoli (IM)*
- *Stefania Corsaro (ICAR)*
- *Valentina Fraioli (IM)*
- *Francesco Gregoretti (ICAR)*
- *Gennaro Oliva (ICAR)*

---

# Outline

---

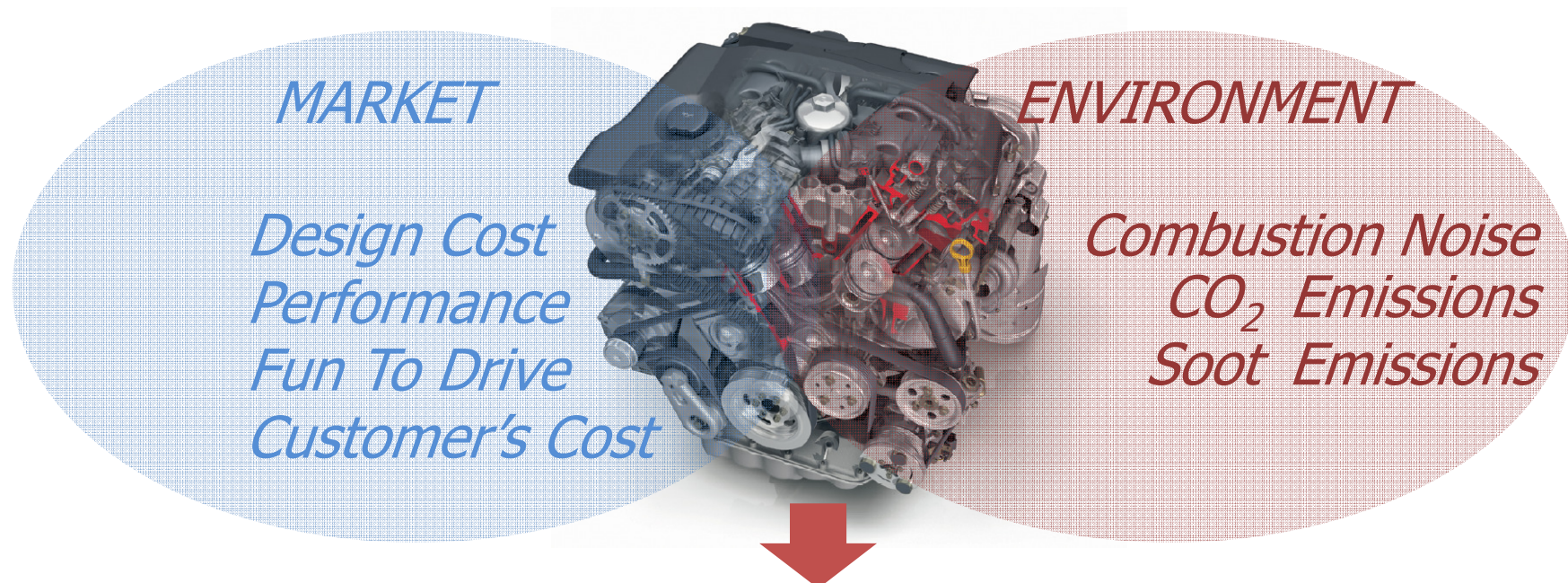
- *Motivation*
- *Mathematical Model & Numerical Algorithm*
- *Reliable Combustion Solver & Adaptivity*
- *Parallel Combustion Software Architecture*
- *Data Distribution & Load Balancing*
- *Some Results*
- *Conclusions & Remarks*

---

# Motivation

---

Impact of **air quality** on **human health**  
leads Government to impose strong limits  
for **engines pollutant emissions**



Engine designers make use of **multi-dimensional, multi-physics, multi-scales simulations codes**  
for matching different requirements

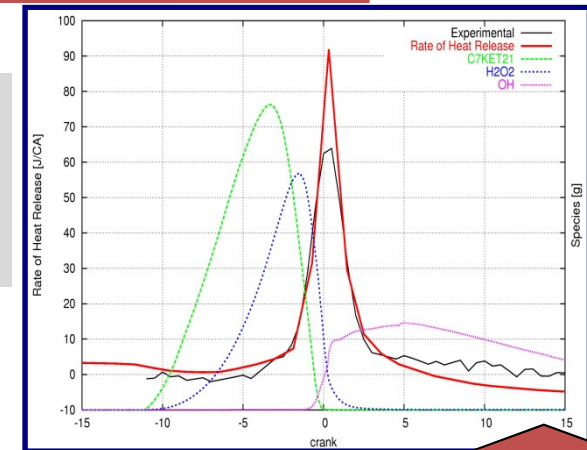
# Engine Design Procedure

Mathematical Models  
(conservation laws)

$$\frac{Dq}{Dt} + \text{div}F(q) = C(q)$$

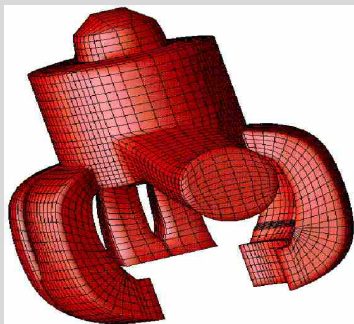
2

Validation by  
experimental  
measures



4

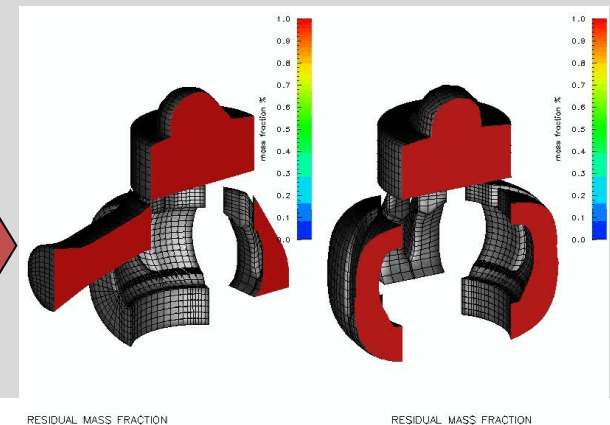
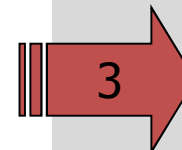
Numerical algorithms & software



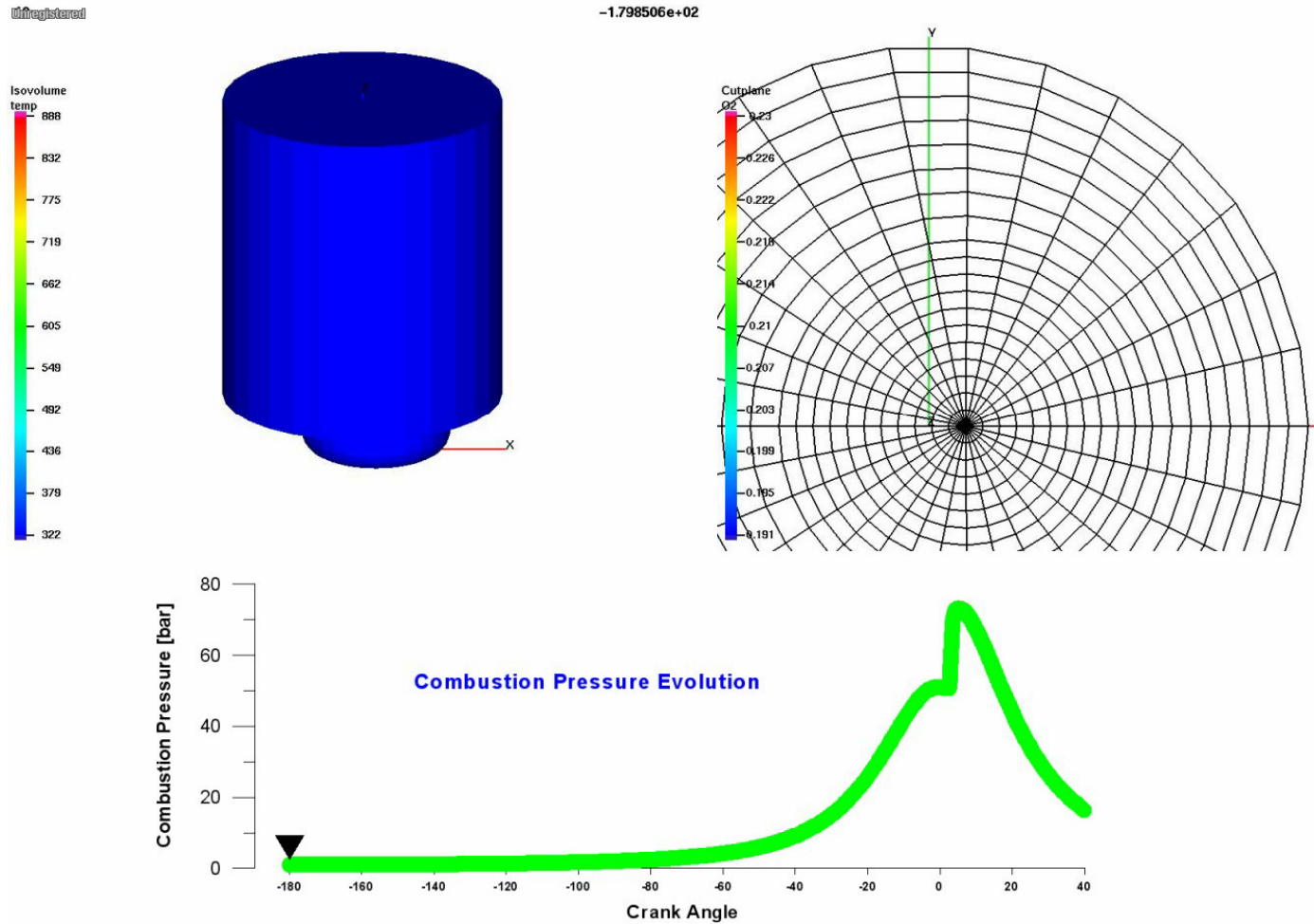
```

set parameters(&N_time_steps, &N_simple_steps)
for(i=0; i<N_time_steps; i++) {
  delta_t=t(i+1)-t(i); solve chemistry; solve
  spray; solve mass density;
  for(j=0; j<N_simple_steps; j++) {
    solve momentum;
    solve energy;
    solve pressure;
    if(test_conv) return;}
  solve turbulence; }
  
```

Computer Simulations



# Main Physical Phenomena



# Mathematical Model

## Unsteady compressible Navier-Stokes equations for reactive flows

**Continuity eq. for species m**

$$\frac{\partial \rho_m}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho_m \mathbf{u}) = \nabla \cdot \left[ \rho \mathbf{D} \nabla \left( \frac{\rho_m}{\rho} \right) \right] + \dot{\rho}_m^c + \dot{\rho}_m^s \delta_{ml}$$

**Continuity eq. for total mass density**

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

**Momentum eq.**

$$\frac{\partial \rho \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{u} \mathbf{u}) = -\frac{1}{\alpha^2} \nabla p - A_0 \nabla \left( \frac{2}{3} \rho \mathbf{k} \right) + \nabla \cdot \bar{\boldsymbol{\sigma}} + \mathbf{F}^s + \rho \mathbf{g}$$

**Energy eq.**

$$\frac{\partial \rho \mathbf{I}}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{I} \mathbf{u}) = -p \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} + (1 - A_0) \bar{\boldsymbol{\sigma}} \div \nabla \mathbf{u} - \nabla \cdot \mathbf{J} + A_0 \rho \varepsilon + \dot{Q}^c + \dot{Q}^s$$

Spray model

**Combustion  
(Reaction) model**



# Numerical Algorithm

## Physical (Linear) Splitting

$$\rho^{n+1} = L(\Delta t)\rho^n \quad \rho^n = \rho(t_0 + n\Delta t)$$

$$L(\Delta t) \approx L^S(\Delta t)L^C(\Delta t)L^{CFD}(\Delta t)$$

$$\rho^{n+1/3} = L^S(\Delta t)\rho^n$$

$$\rho^{n+2/3} = L^C(\Delta t)\rho^{n+1/3}$$

$$\rho^{n+1} = L^{CFD}(\Delta t)\rho^{n+2/3}$$

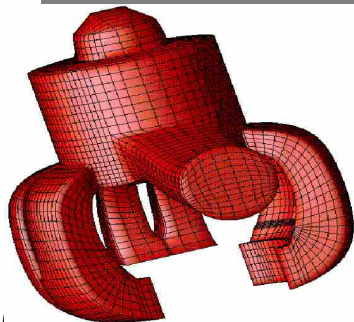
$L^S$  = Spray model

$L^C$  = Combustion model

$L^{CFD}$  = CFD model

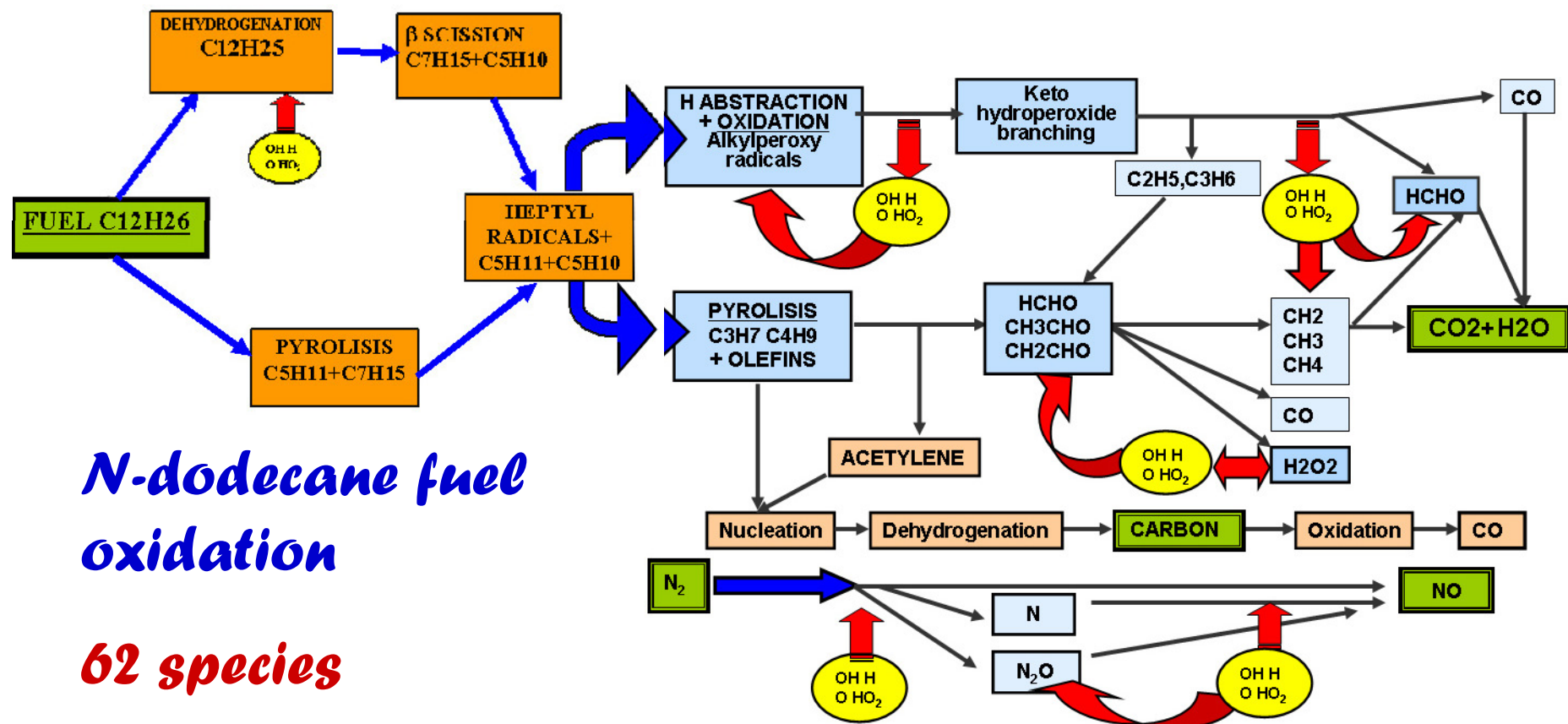
Different physical phenomena  
are decoupled

Different sub-models are **solved independently**  
on 3D computational grid representing engine cylinder



# Combustion (Chemical) Model

*Gustavsson & Golovitchev (2003)*



*N-dodecane fuel  
oxidation*

*62 species*

*285 equations*

# Combustion (Mathematical) Model

an ODE system per each grid cell

$$\dot{\rho}_m = W_m \sum_{r=1}^R (b_{mr} - a_{mr}) \dot{\omega}_r(\rho_1, \dots, \rho_m, T) \quad m = 1, \dots, M$$

$\rho_m$  MASS DENSITY OF SPECIES  $m$

$R$  TOTAL NUMBER OF REACTIONS

$M$  TOTAL NUMBER OF SPECIES

$W_m$  MOLECULAR WEIGHT OF SPECIES  $m$

$a_{mr}, b_{mr}$  INTEGRAL STOICHIOMETRIC COEFFICIENTS

$K_{fr}, K_{br}$  COEFFICIENTS DEPENDING ON TEMPERATURE

$a'_{mr}, b'_{mr}$ , REACTION ORDERS

DEPENDING  
ON  
CHEMISTRY

inherently parallel model



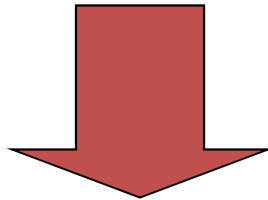
---

# Current simulation codes

---

e.g. KIVA3V-II (1999) as well as KIVA4 (2006)

- **Reduced chemical reaction mechanisms**
- Equilibrium assumption for fast chemical reactions
- **Inefficient numerical ODE solvers**



**Inadequate for emission predictions  
in modern engines**

---

# Goal of the project

---

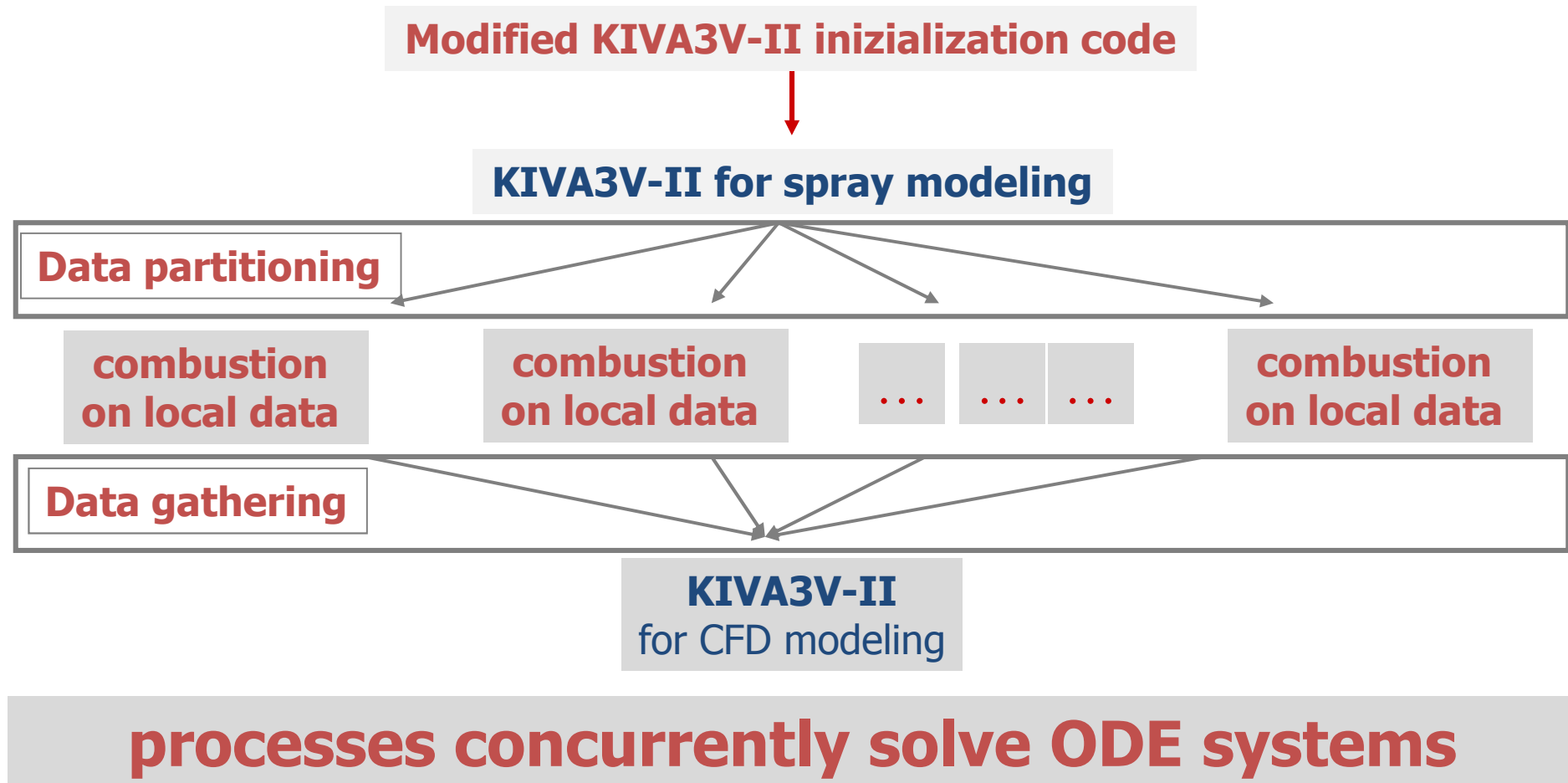
Design and implement **parallel software** for detailed combustion modeling based on **advanced numerical algorithms and software**

✓based on:

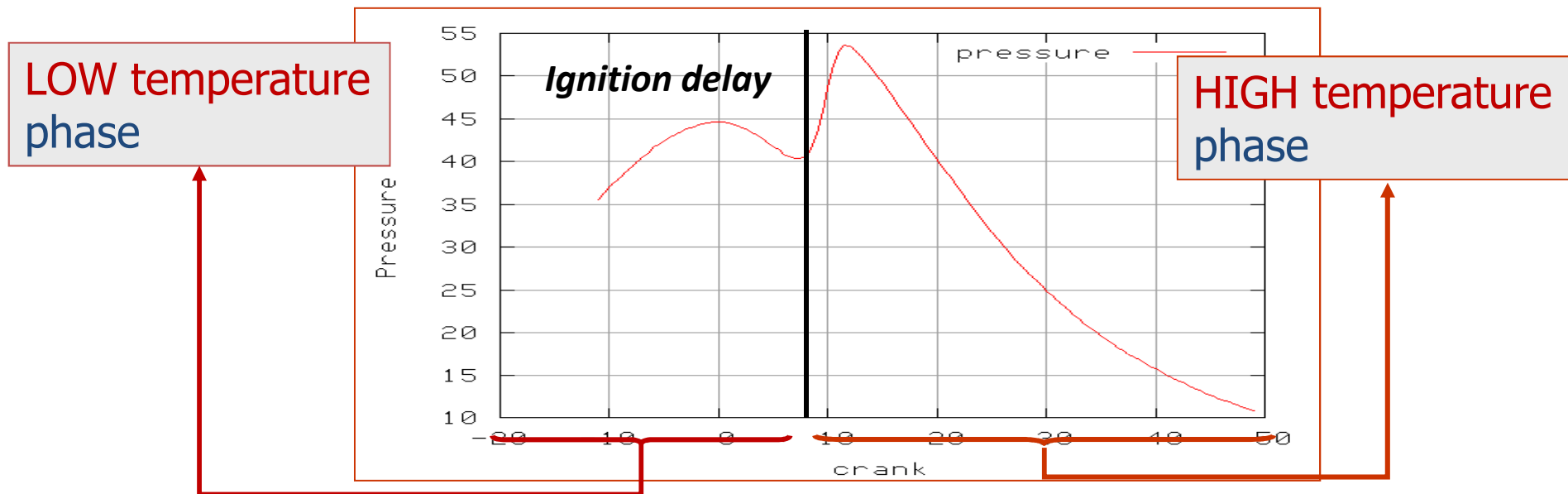
- MPI** library for message passing
  - CHEMKIN-II** package (*Sandia National Laboratories*) for setting ODE systems of combustion
  - general-purpose up-to-date **ODE solvers**
- ✓interfaced with **KIVA3V-II** (*Los Alamos National Laboratory*) a sequential finite-volume Fortran code for engine simulations;



# Parallel Combustion Solver



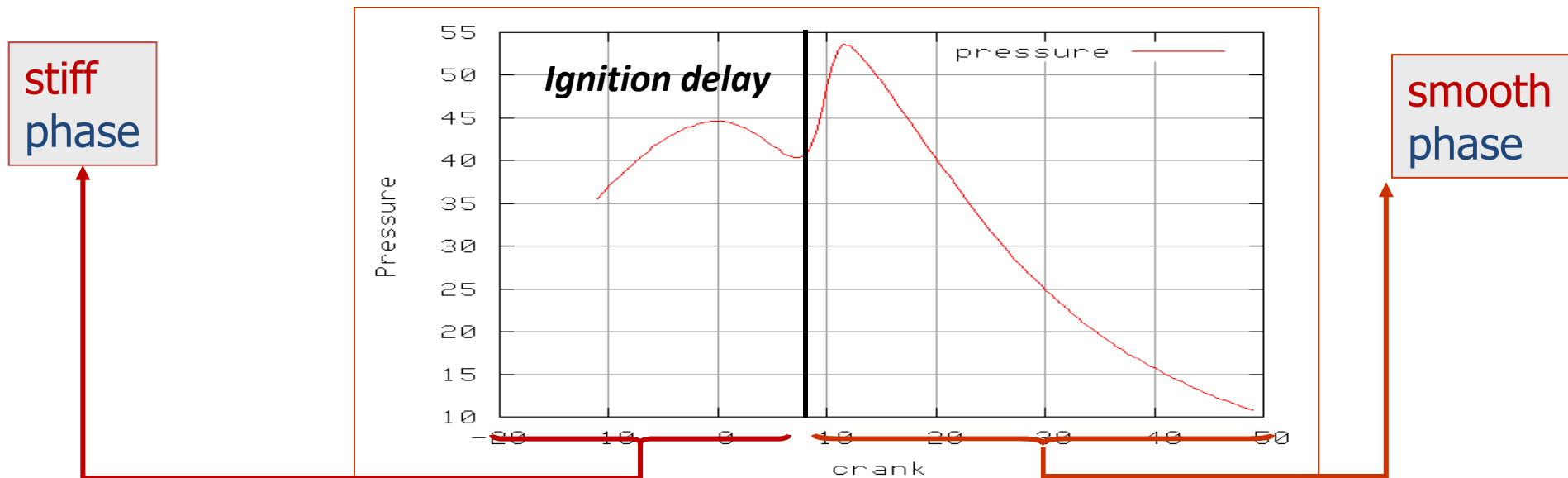
# Chemical Issues in Combustion



- chemical kinetics involves **high number of intermediates with low density** and very high reaction rates, specially in the **LOW temperature** phase. These species are **fundamental for ignition starting**.

- after pressure rise (during **HIGH temperature** phase), kinetic dynamics becomes smooth, and a lot of species are rapidly damped.

# Numerical Issues in Combustion



- positivity and total density preserving properties
- high accuracy to efficiently solve components related to intermediates species
- strong stability properties in the highly stiff phase (LOW temperature)
- suitable damping properties in the smooth-phase (HIGH temperature)



# ODE SOLVERS

## VODE – Brown, Byrne, Hindmarsh (1988)

- **Multistep Formulas:** Variable Coefficient Backward Differentiation Formulas (BDF)

$$\sum_{i=0}^q \alpha_{n,i} y_{n-i} + h_n \beta_n \dot{y}_n = 0$$

✓ Adaptive in order (from 1 to 5) and time-step choice

## SDIRK4 – Hairer, Wanner (1996)

- **One-step Formula:** Singly Diagonally Implicit Runge-Kutta of order 4

$$\begin{cases} Y_{n,i} = y_{n-1} + h_n \sum_{j=1}^s a_{ij} f(t_{n-1} + c_j h_n, Y_{n,j}) & i = 1, \dots, s \\ y_n = y_{n-1} + h_n \sum_{j=1}^s b_j f(t_{n-1} + c_j h_n, Y_{n,j}) \end{cases}$$

✓ Adaptive in time-step choice

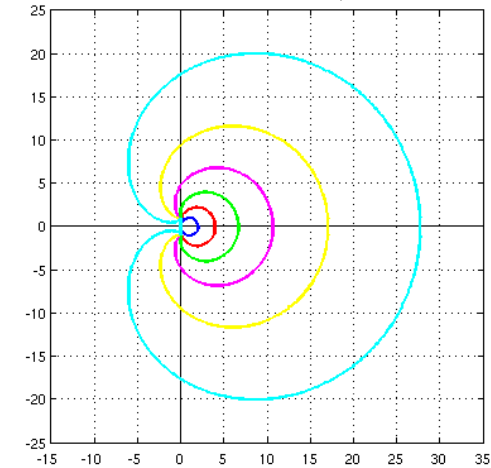
# VODE: main features

- ✓ **stiffly stable** formulas (*Gear, 1971*)

$a, c > 0, R(z), z \in \mathbb{C}$  stability function

$$R(z) \supseteq \{z \in \mathbb{C} : \operatorname{Re}(z) \leq -a\} \cup \{z \in \mathbb{C} : -a \leq \operatorname{Re}(z) \leq 0, -c \leq \operatorname{Im}(z) \leq c\}$$

Backward differentiation orders 1-6 (exteriors of curves)



courtesy of N. Trefethen

- ✓ **Simplified Newton iterations** for non-linear systems at each time
- ✓ **Jacobian matrix saved** and **reused** for different time steps
- ✓ Routines from **Linpack** for direct solution of linear systems

---

# SDIRK4: main features

---

✓ **L-stable** formula  
(*Ehle*, 1969)

1. **A-stable** formula

2.  $R(z)$ ,  $z \in \mathbb{C}$  stability function:  $\lim_{z \rightarrow \infty} R(z) = 0$

prevents stiff components from being damped out very slowly

✓ **Simplified Newton iterations** for non-linear systems at each time step

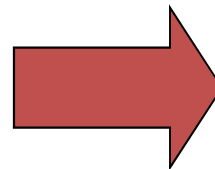
1 Jacobian evaluation and 1 LU factorization per time step

✓ Routines from **decsol** (*Hairer & Wanner*) for direct solution of linear systems

# Test case: 16 valves EURO IV Fiat Multijet

<b>Bore</b>	<b>82.0 [MM]</b>
<b>Stroke</b>	<b>90 [MM]</b>
<b>Displacement</b>	<b>475 [CM<sup>3</sup>]</b>
<b>Compression ratio</b>	<b>16.5:1</b>
<b>Engine speed</b>	<b>1500 RPM</b>
<b>Valves per cylinder</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Injector</b>	<b>MICROSAC 7 HOLES, <math>\varnothing</math>0.140 MM</b>
<b>Injector apparatus</b>	<b>BOSCH COMMON RAIL III GENERATION</b>

**COMPUTATIONAL GRID: 3D CYLINDRICAL SECTOR, WITH ~ 4500 CELLS**



**~ 99% OF  
COMPUTING TIME  
IN ODE SOLVERS**

# Testing Platform

## Software

- Linux Red Hat 9.0
- GNU Fortran compiler 3.2.2
- LAM MPI 7.0
- KIVA3V-II simulation code by Los Alamos Labs.

## Hardware

- Beowulf class cluster operated by IM-CNR
  - ✓ 16 (2.9 GHz) Pentium IV processors, each with 1 GB RAM and 256 KB L2 cache
  - ✓ Fast Ethernet (100 Mbit/sec)

## ODE solvers stopping criteria

**Absolute tolerances** depending on species

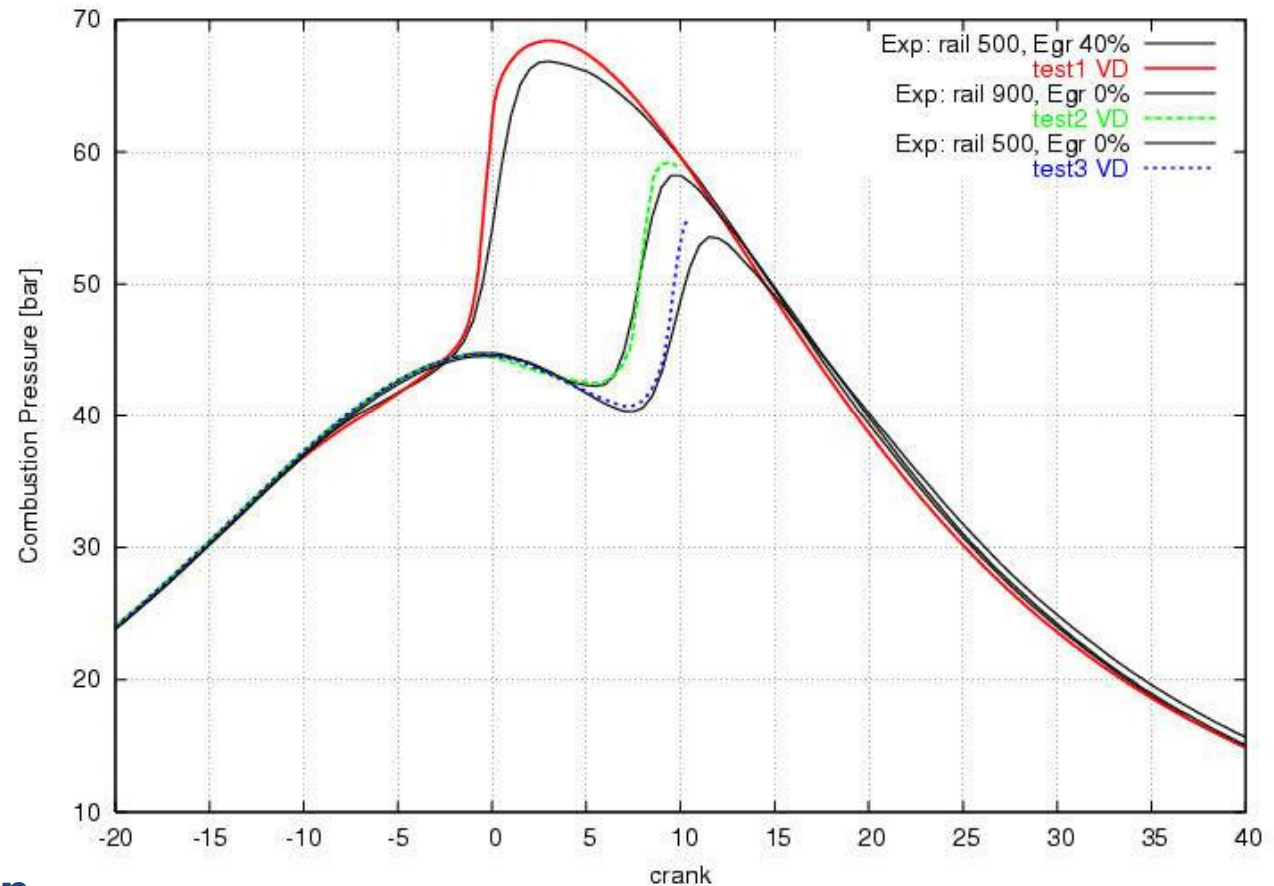
**Relative tolerances** =  $10^{-3}$

10k **maximum number of time steps**  
per splitting intervals

## Engine operative conditions

	Rail Pressure bar	EG R	Injection timing CA btdc	Injection Period CA	Injected Fuel mg
<b>Test1</b>	500	40%	12.7 btdc	7.3	8.0
<b>Test2</b>	900	0%	2.3 btdc	5.7	8.7
<b>Test3</b>	500	0%	2.1 btdc	7.3	8.5

# Accuracy: VODE vs SDIRK4

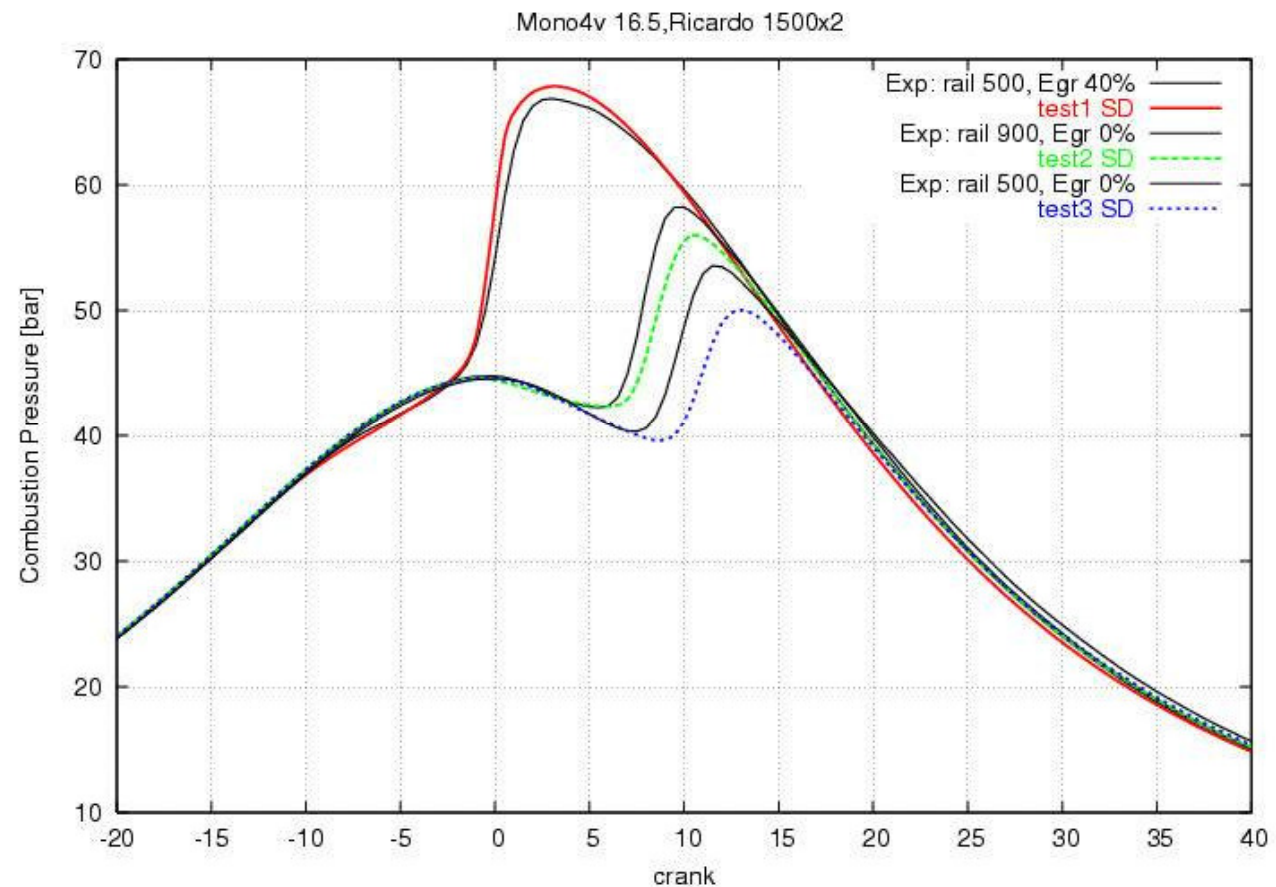


## VODE

**well predicts ignition**  
**over-estimates pressure rise**  
**does not reach accuracy in high-pressure/high-temperature phase**



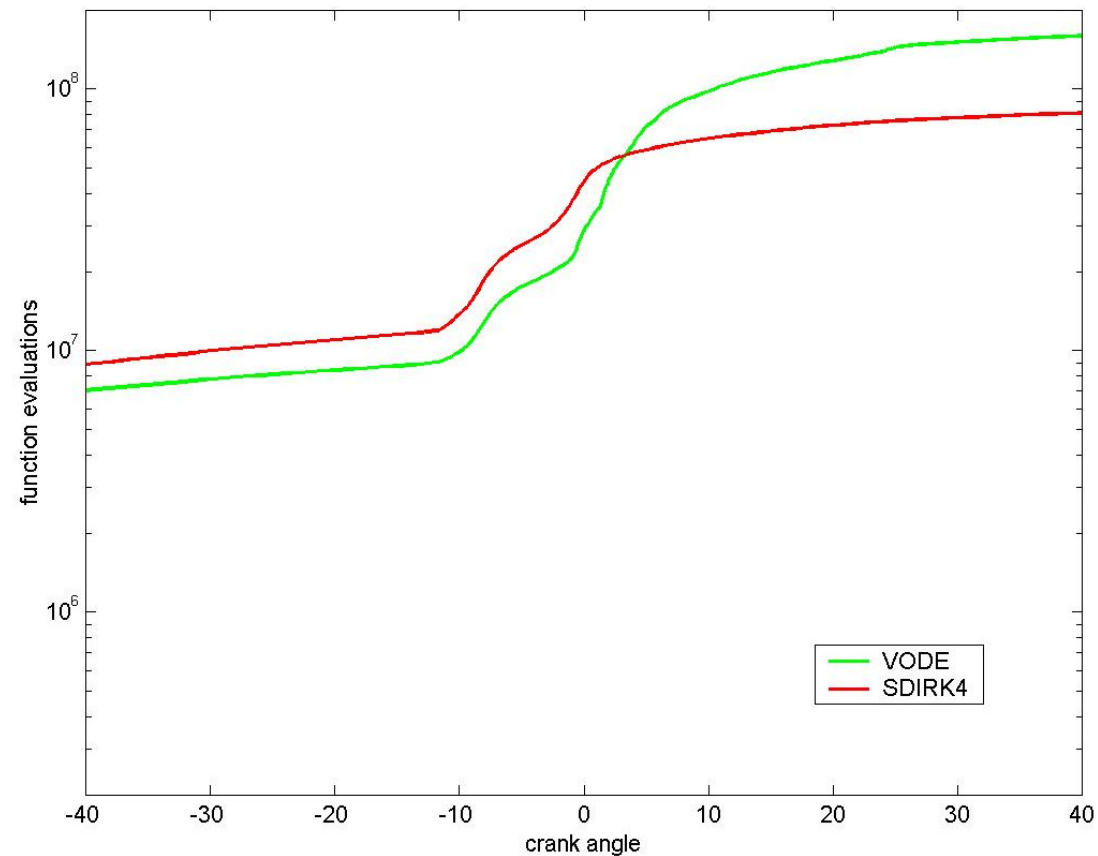
# Accuracy: VODE vs SDIRK4 (cont'd)



## SDIRK4

delays ignition  
 under-estimates pressure rise

# Efficiency: VODE vs SDIRK4



**Computational Cost on Test 1**  
**Function Evaluations vs Crank Angle on 1 processor**





---

## ...one more level of adaptivity

---

**VODE**

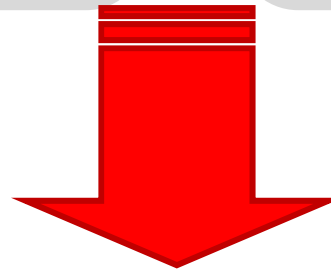
in stiff

(low temperature/pressure)  
simulation phase

**SDIRK4**

in smooth

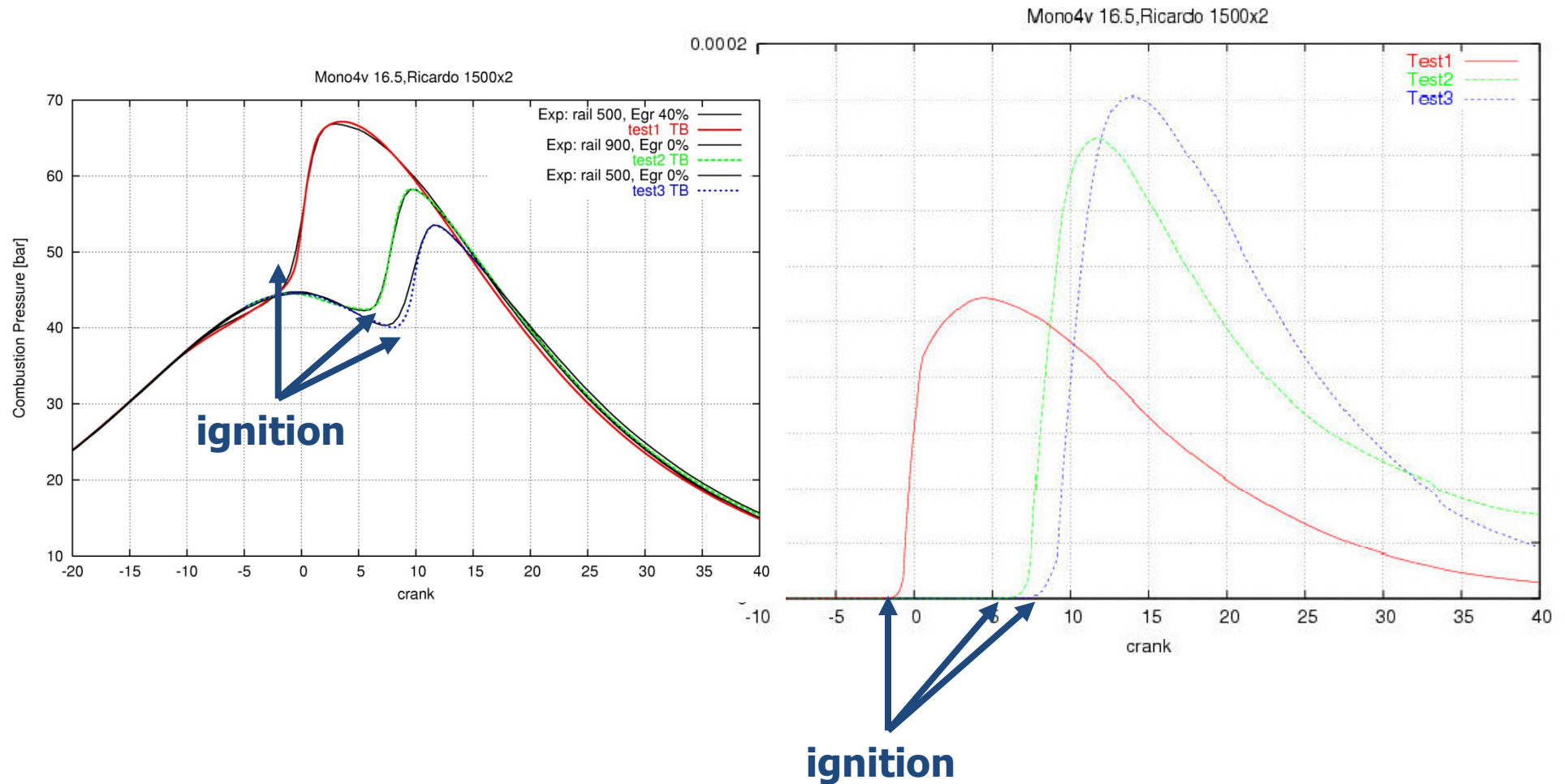
(high temperature/pressure)  
simulation phase



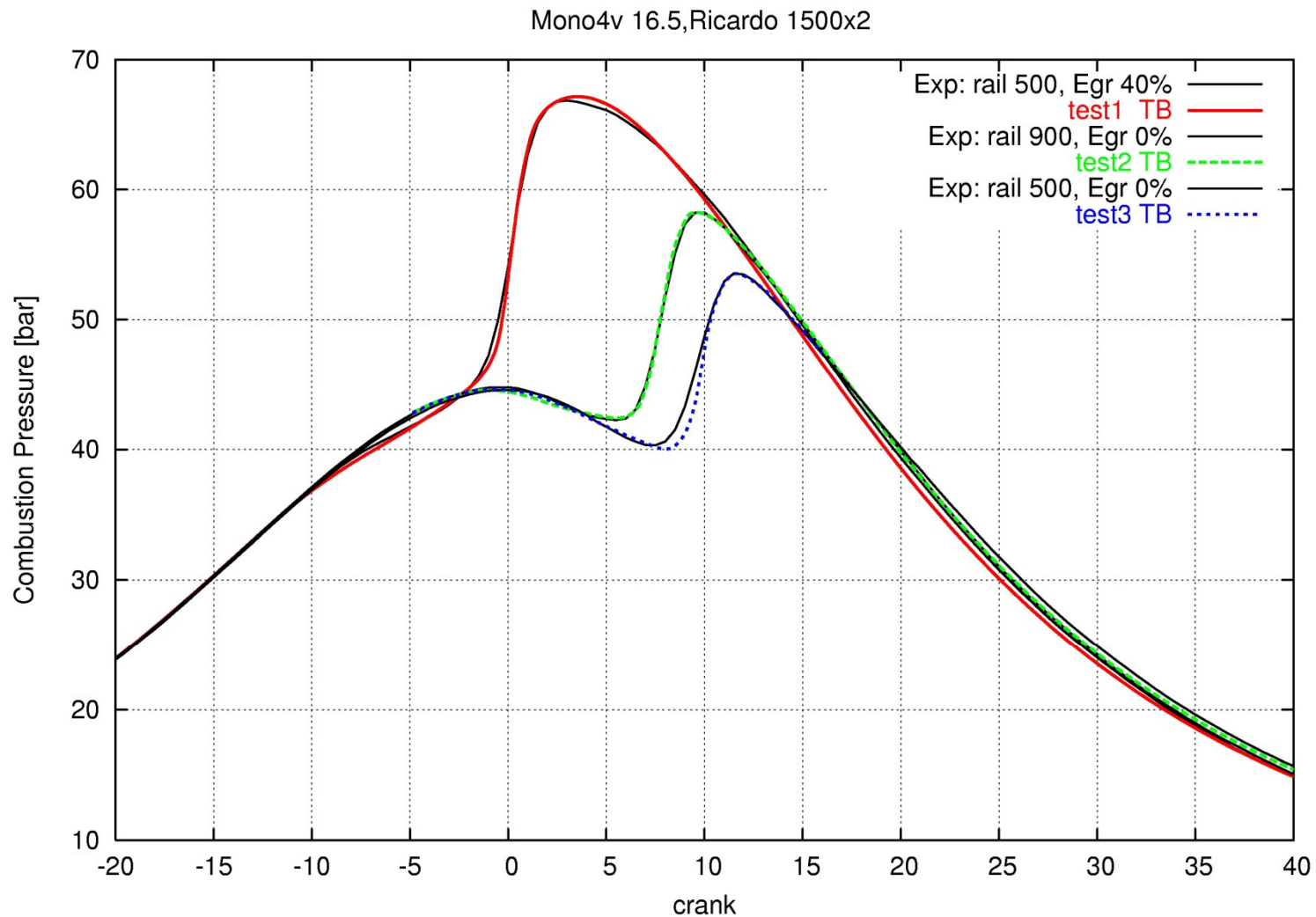
**a multi-method ODE component**  
for improving  
reliability and efficiency  
of Diesel Combustion Simulations



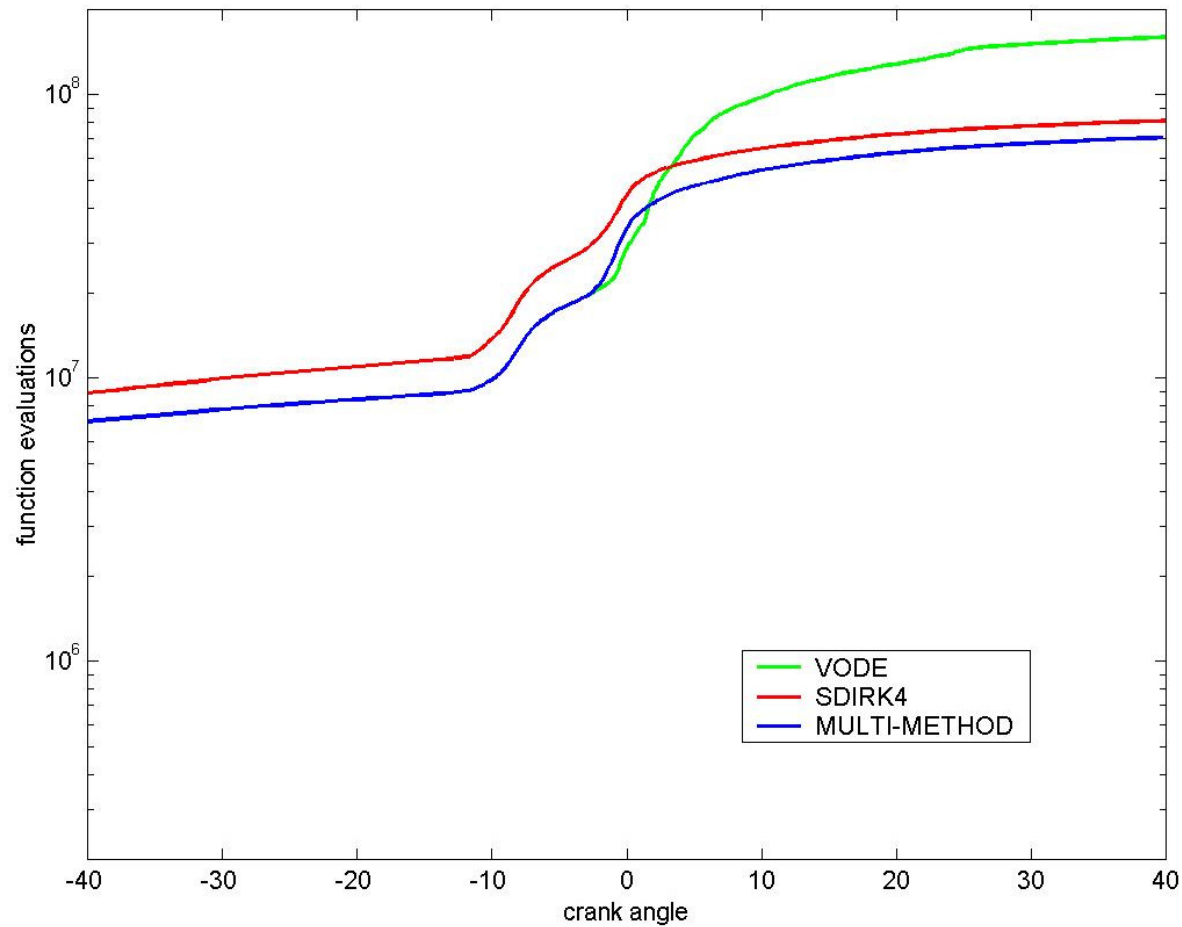
# Method Selection depending on Chemistry



# Accuracy of Multi-method Solver



# Efficiency of Multi-method Solver



**Computational Cost of Combustion on Test 1**  
**Function Evaluations vs Crank Angle on 1 processor** SuperCA++ 2012

# Engine Simulation Software

## KIVA3V-II numerical procedure

```

SET N_time_steps, N_nonlin_steps
for s=1 to N_time_steps do
  1. SOLVE spray;
  2. SOLVE COMBUSTION;
  3. SOLVE mass density;
  4. for j=1 to N_nonlin_steps do
      SOLVE momentum;
      SOLVE energy;
      SOLVE pressure;
      if (test_conv) return;
    endfor
  5. SOLVE turbulence;
  6. SOLVE advection;
endfor

```

## SOFTWARE STRUCTURE

1. **KIVA3V-II** for initialization and spray solver;

### GRID PARTITIONING

SCATTER grid cells data by **MPI**

2. **CHEMKIN II** for ODE systems setting

2.1 if phase == **AUTOIGNITION**  
ODE solver is **VODE**

2.2 if phase == **COMBUSTION**  
ODE solver is **SDIRK4**

### GRID GATHERING

GATHER grid cells data by **MPI**

3-6. **KIVA3V-II** for CFD solver;



---

# Parallel Computing Issues

---

Combustion solver deals with:

- detailed kinetic schemes for accurate simulation of combustion
- local physical conditions
- numerical adptivity of solvers



many sources of  
**computational load imbalance**



**grid partitioning is a key issue**  
for efficient parallel simulations

---

# Grid Partitioning for Combustion

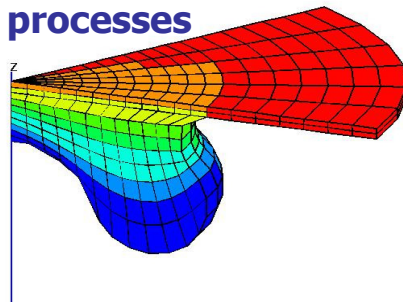
---

Different strategies to be flexible at changes in:

- chemistry model & solvers
- grid size at run time (due to piston movement)
- hw/sw platform (possible heterogeneity)

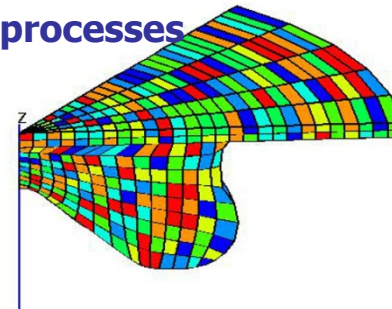
**Block  
partitioning**

8 processes



**Random  
partitioning**

8 processes

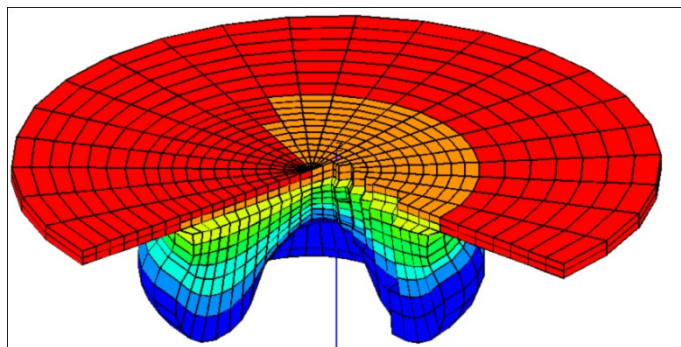
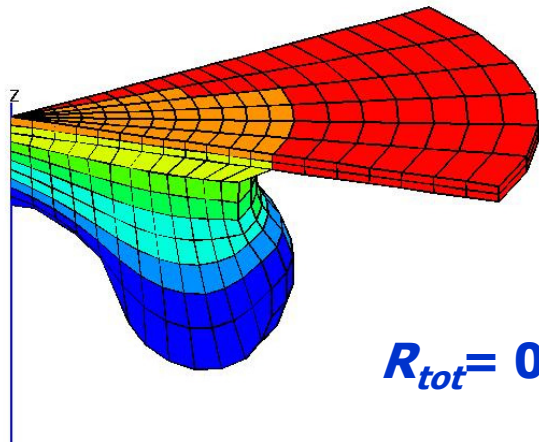


# Performance: Block Partitioning

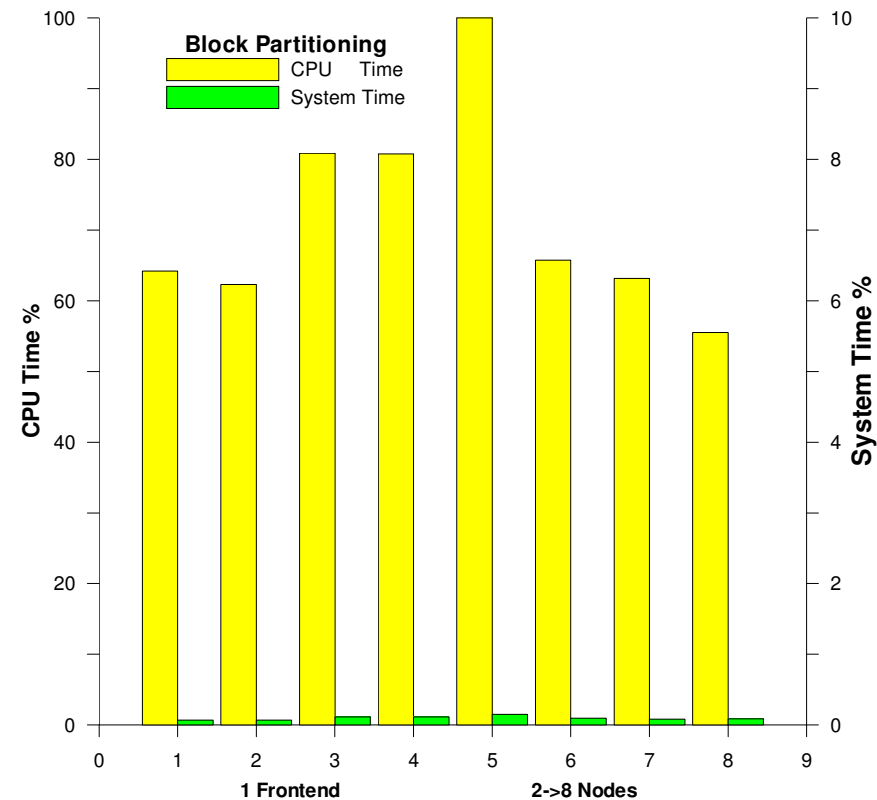
$$R_{tot} = (T_{max}^{tot} - T_{med}^{tot}) / T_{max}^{tot} \quad \text{load imbalance}$$

$T_{max}^{tot}$  = max execution time among processes

$T_{med}^{tot}$  = average execution time among processes

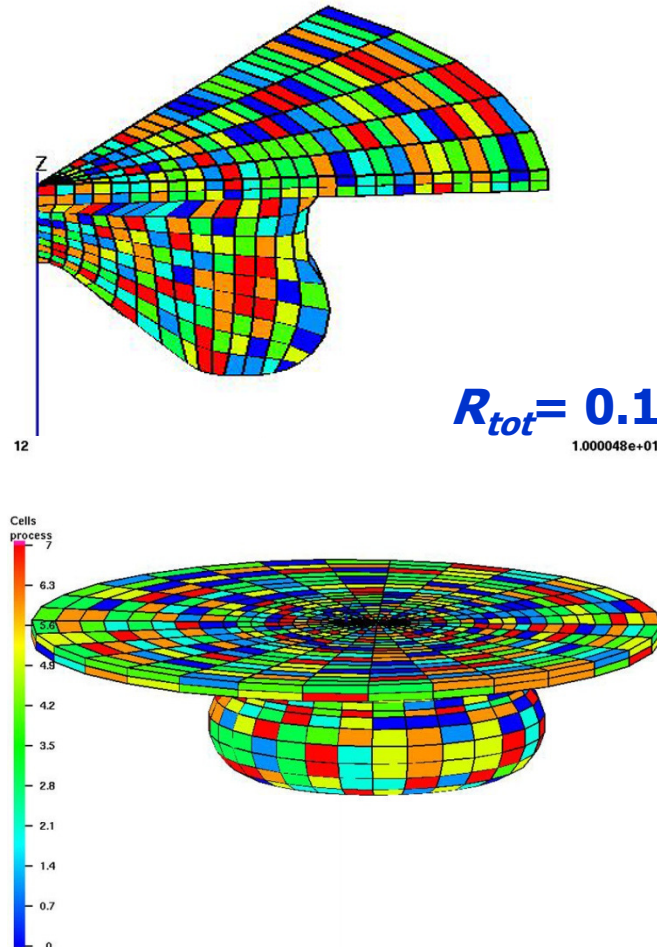


**SIMULATION CYCLE:  
FROM 5 CA BTDC TO 40 CA ATDC**





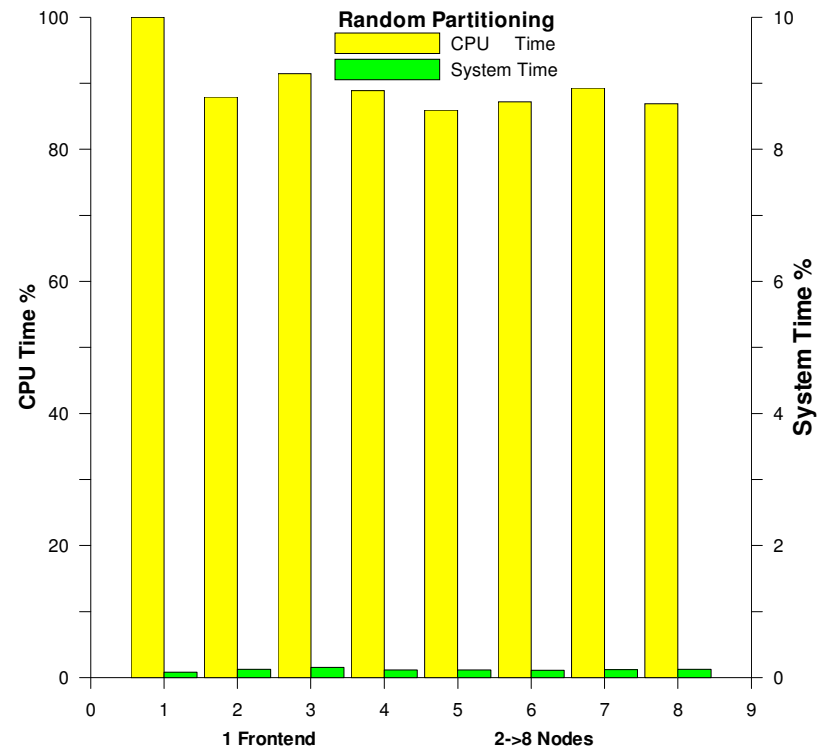
# Performance: Random Partitioning



$$R_{tot} = (T_{max}^{tot} - T_{med}^{tot}) / T_{max}^{tot} \quad \text{load imbalance}$$

$T_{max}^{tot}$  = max execution time among processes

$T_{med}^{tot}$  = average execution time among processes



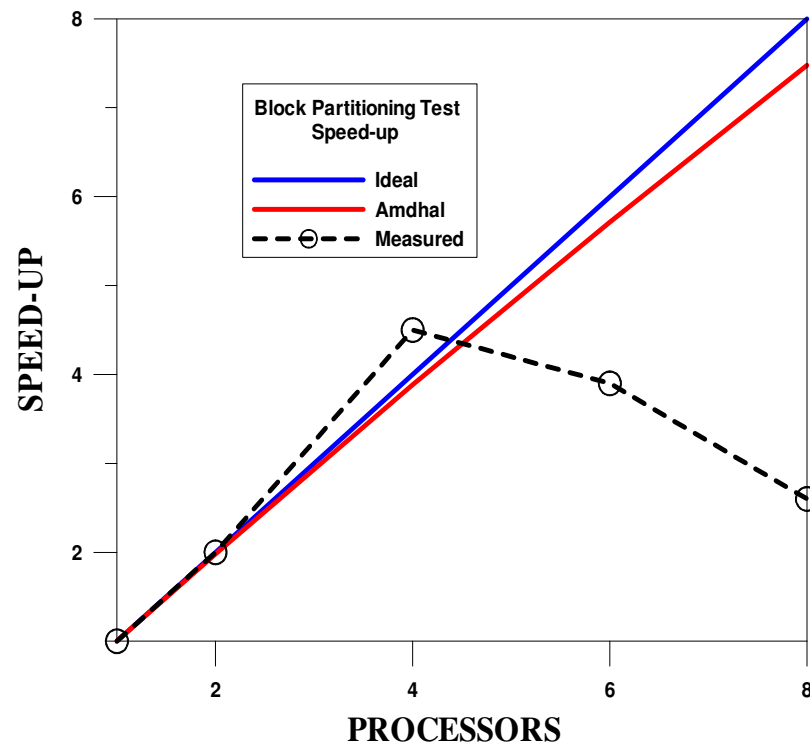
**SIMULATION CYCLE:**

**FROM 5 CA BTDC TO 40 CA ATDC**

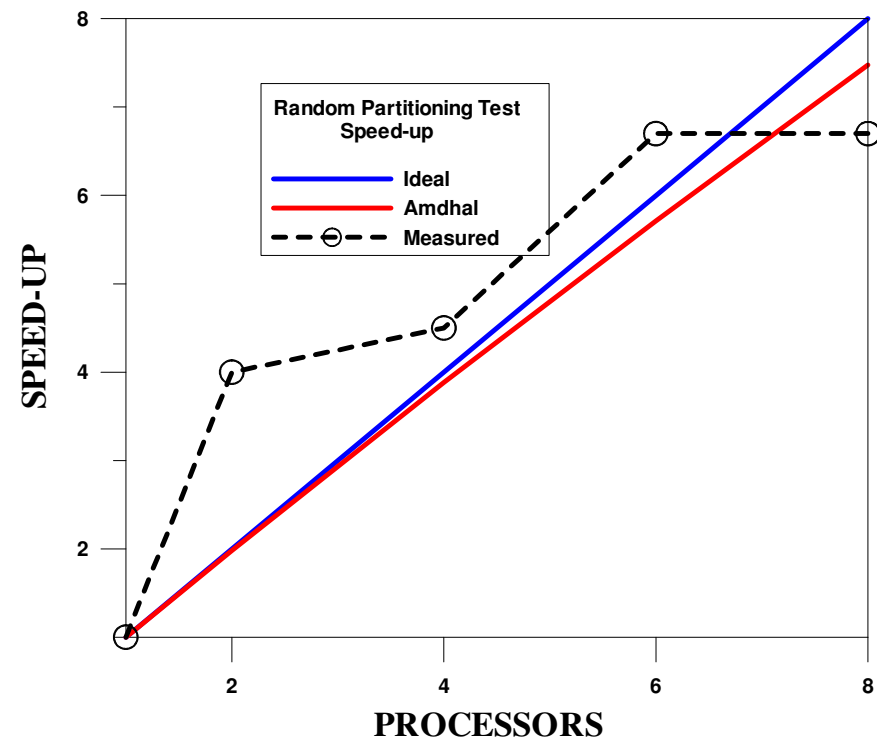
National Research Council of Italy

# Parallel Combustion

## Block-partitioning



## Random-partitioning



**super-linear speedup  
in case of good partitioning**



---

# Grid Partitioning for Efficient Engine Simulation

---

## **RANDOM PARTITIONING**

is a good strategy  
for **reducing load imbalance**  
in parallel combustion  
but

parallel PDEs solvers needed for CFD modeling  
(e.g. KIVA-4MPI)  
require interaction among contiguous cells at each time-step  
i.e.

## **BLOCK PARTITIONING**

minimizes  $T_{\text{com}}/T_{\text{calc}}$   
**(surface/volume effect)**

---

# Dynamic Grid Partitioning

---

introduce in  
**BLOCK PARTITIONING**  
**DYNAMIC WORKLOAD BALANCING**  
for preserving contiguousness of grid cells  
and improving efficiency of computation

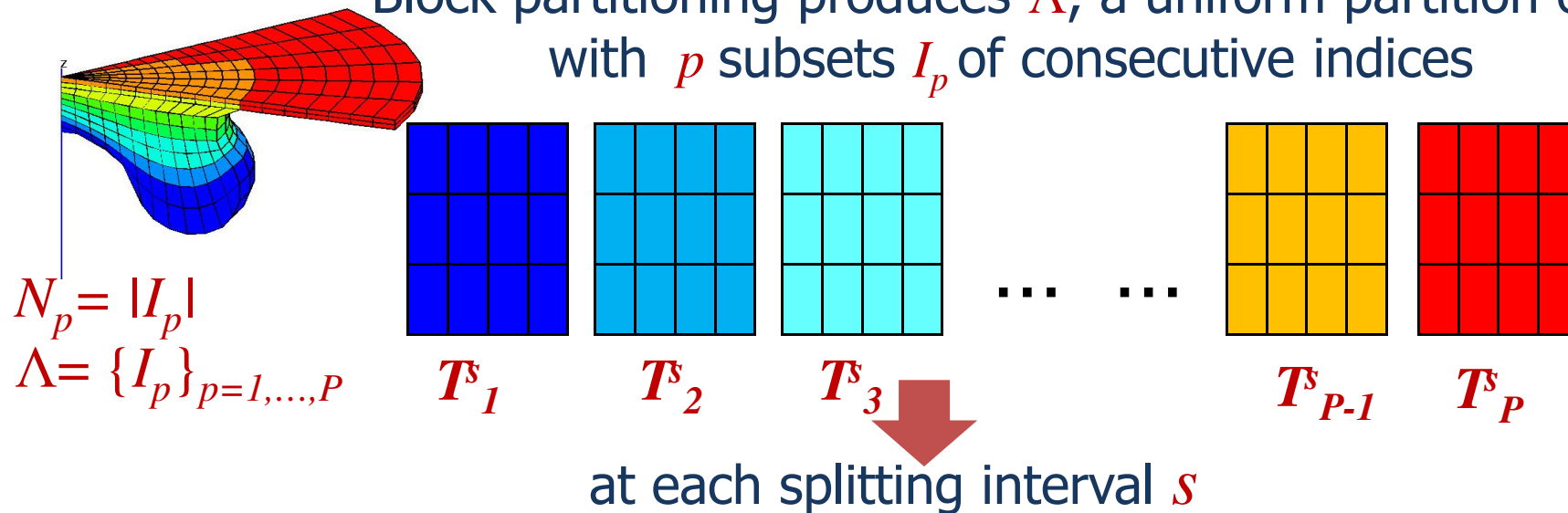


**estimate** at run time **load imbalance**  
and possibly **re-map** grid cells by  
**a non-uniform block partitioning**

# Process Workload Measure

## Block partitioning

Let be  $N$  total number of grid cells with indices in  $I = \{1, 2, 3, \dots, N\}$  and  $P$  number of processes. Block partitioning produces  $\Lambda$ , a uniform partition of  $I$ , with  $p$  subsets  $I_p$  of consecutive indices



**combustion workload measure of process  $p$**

$$T_p^s = \sum_{i \in I_p} T^s(i)$$

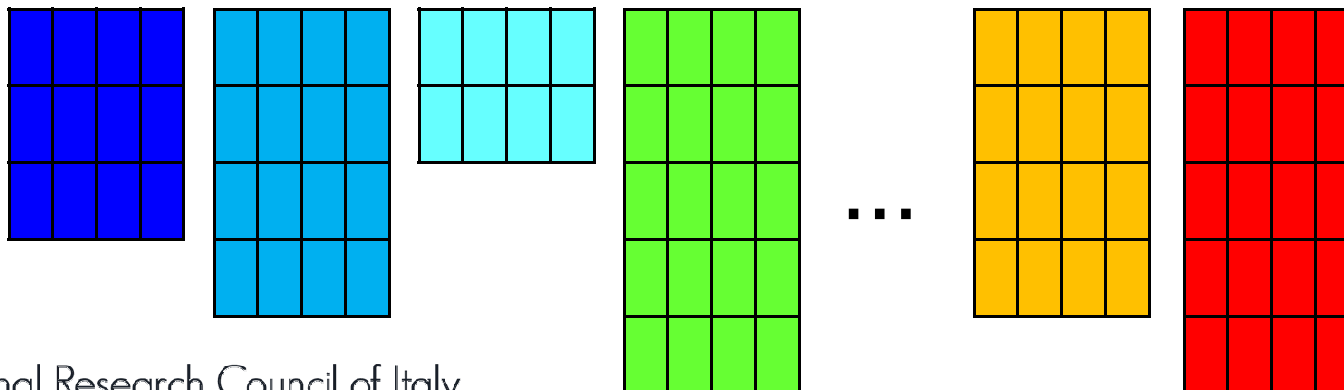
$T^s(i)$  **execution time of combustion on grid cell  $i$**

# Dynamic Partitioning: Basic Idea

at the end of each splitting interval  
**possibly define a new partition  $\Lambda^{new}$  with**  
**a suitably computed dimension**  
for reducing “spread” among processes workload



non-uniform block partitioning  
depending on combustion workloads



# Dynamic Load Balancing Algorithm

Let be:  $T_p^{old} = \sum_{i \in I_p^{old}} T^s(i)$      $T_{\max}^s = \max_p T_p^{old}$      $T_{med}^s = \sum_p T_p^{old} / P$

$$R_s = (T_{\max}^s - T_{med}^s) / T_{\max}^s$$

**computational load imbalance  
at the splitting interval  $s$**

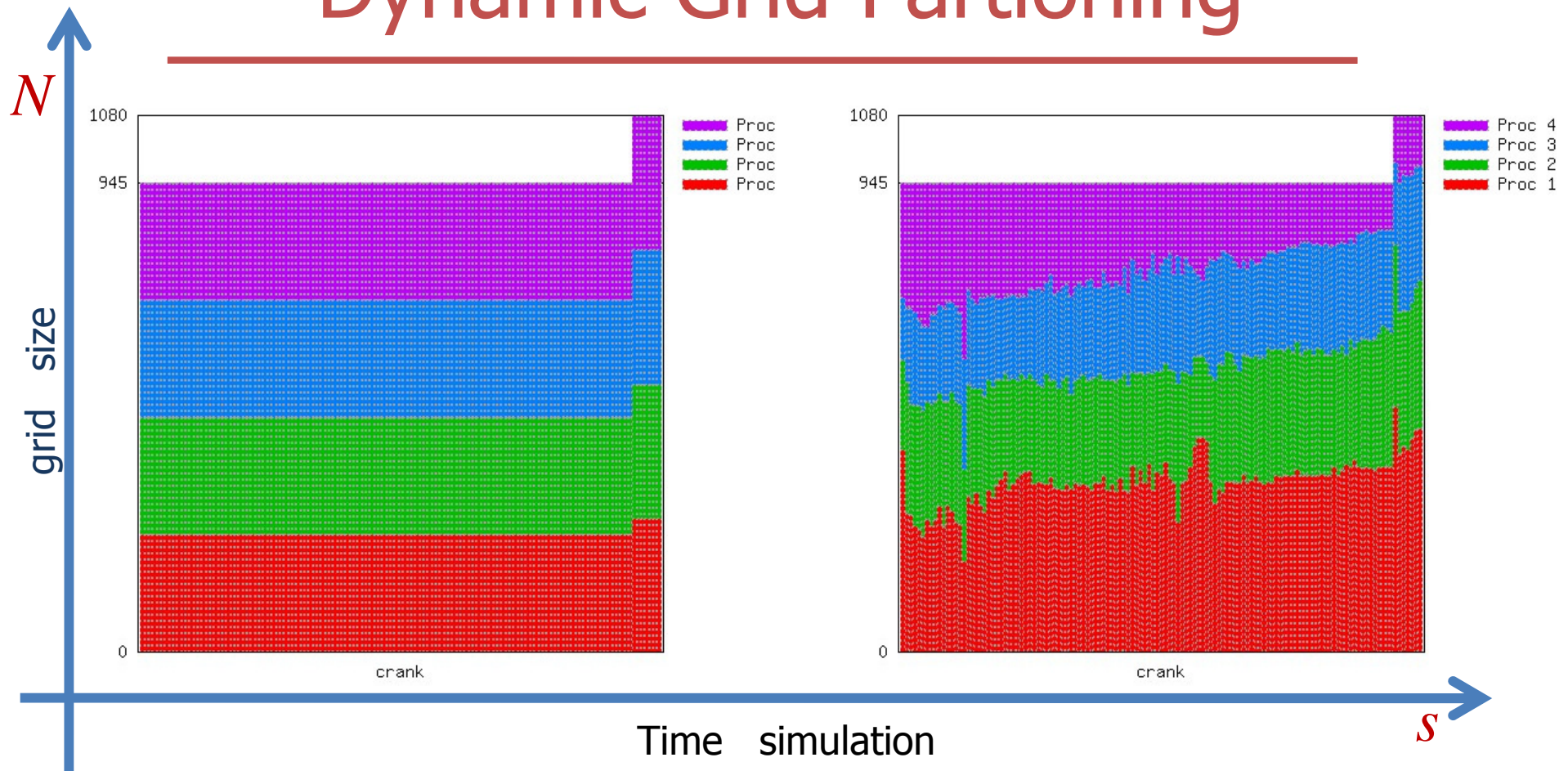
If  $R_s > r$  with threshold  $0 < r \ll 1$   
a new partition of consecutive grid indices is obtained

$$\Lambda^{new} := \{I_p^{new}\}_{p=1, \dots, P} \quad \text{where} \quad T_p^{new} = \sum_{i \in I_p^{new}} T^s(i) \leq T_{med}^s$$

then a **re-distribution of grid cells data according  
with the new partition** is applied using a **greedy  
algorithm** for local work flow scheduling



# Dynamic Grid Partitioning



**Block  
partitioning**

**Block  
partitioning with  
dynamic load balancing**





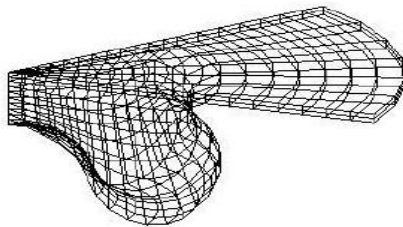
# Testbed



## HP XC 6000 Linux cluster

- 64 bi-processor nodes
  - Intel Itanium 2 Madison processor
  - 1.4 Ghz clock frequency
  - 4 GB RAM
- Quadrics QsNetII Elan 4 network (bandwidth of 900 MB/sec, latency 5  $\mu$ sec)
- HP Linux for High Performance Computing 3 (kernel 2.4.21)
- GNU Compiler Collection 4.2
- HP MPI implementation 2.01

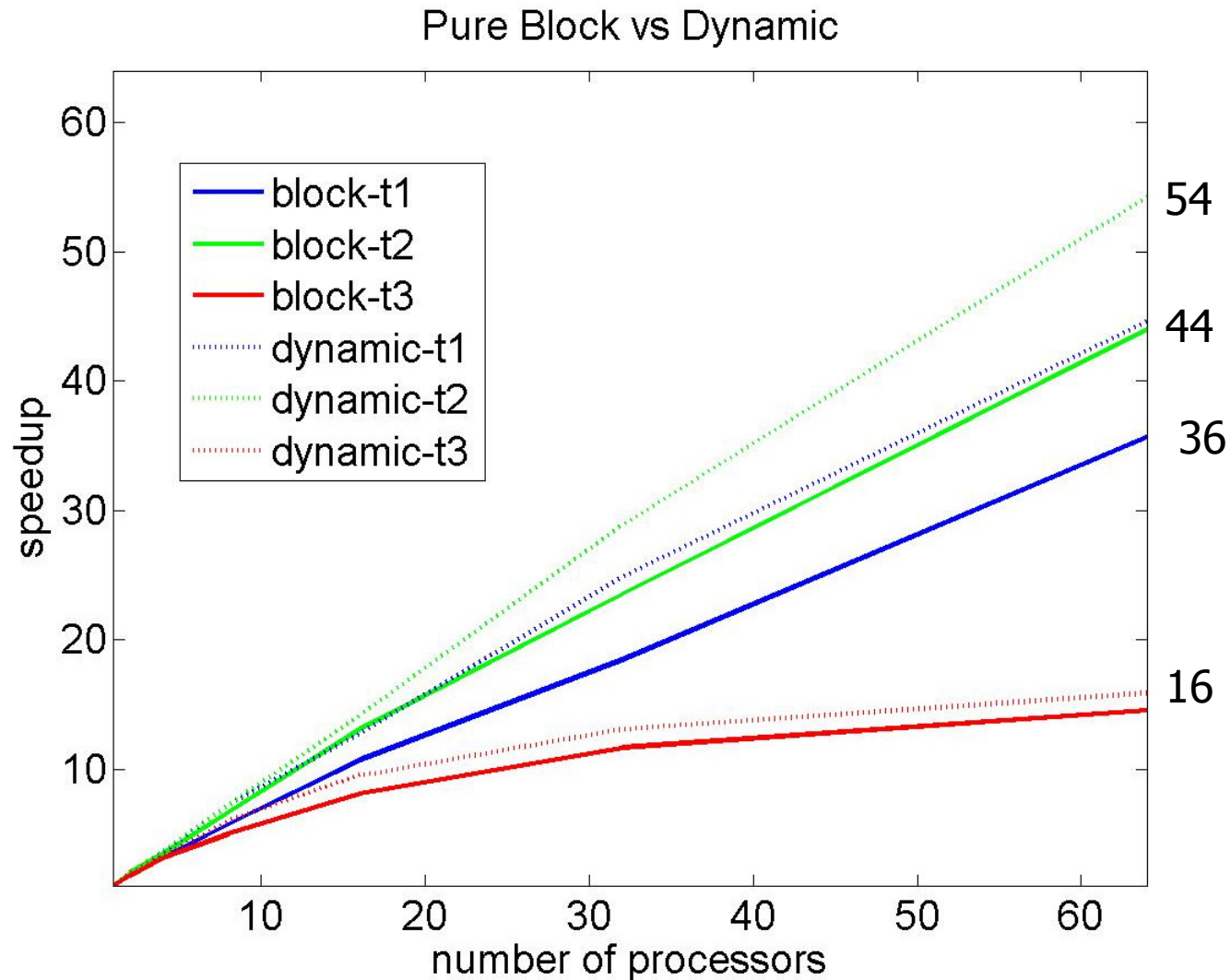
**COMPUTATIONAL GRID: 3D CYLINDRICAL SECTOR, WITH ~ 4500 CELLS**



Simulation cycle: **from injection to 40 CA ATDC**

Grid size during simulation: min:945 max: 1755

# Block Partitioning vs Dynamic Partitioning



---

# Some Conclusions and Remarks

---

- **Detailed combustion** for engine simulation **is a typical context for HPC**
- Reliable and efficient predictive simulations require **advanced and adaptive solvers**
- **Data partitioning and load balancing are main issues** to manage adaptivity in a parallel environment
- Flexible software framework should be adapt to **variability in test cases** (operative conditions and grid sizes), **hardware platform** (processor heterogeneity), **software platform** (interfacing with different components needed for different sub-models)

---

# References

---

1. L. Antonelli, P. D'Ambra, Dynamic Load Balancing for High-Performance Simulations of Combustion in Engine Applications, Proc. of the 19th EUROMICRO Conf. on PDP, IEEE CS Pub., 2011.
2. L. Antonelli, M. Briani, P. D'Ambra, V. Fraioli, Positivity Issues in Adaptive Solutions of Detailed Chemical Schemes for Engine Simulations, Communications to SIMAI Congress, Vol. 3, 2009.
3. L. Antonelli, P. Belardini, P. D'Ambra, F. Gregoretti, G. Oliva, A Distributed Combustion Solver for Engine Simulations on Grids, Journal of Computational and Applied Mathematics, Vol. 226, 2, 2009.
4. L. Antonelli, P. D'Ambra, F. Gregoretti, G. Oliva, and P. Belardini, A Parallel Combustion Solver within an Operator Splitting context for Engine Simulations on Grids, in Proc. of LSSC'07, LNCS Series, Vol. 4818, 2007.
5. P. Belardini, C. Bertoli, S. Corsaro, P. D'Ambra, V. Fraioli, Application of a Multi-Method ODE Software Component for Simulations of Ultra-Low Emissions Diesel Engines, in Proc. of Fisita'06, P027, 2006.
6. P. Belardini, C. Bertoli, S. Corsaro, P. D'Ambra, Introducing Combustion-Turbulence Interaction in Parallel Simulation of Diesel Engines, in Proc. of HPCC'06, M. Gerndt, D. Kranzlmuller eds., LNCS series, Vol. 4208, 2006.
7. P. Belardini, C. Bertoli, S. Corsaro, P. D'Ambra, The Impact of Different Stiff ODE Solvers in Parallel Simulations of Diesel Combustion in Proc. of HPCC'05, L.T. Yang, O. Rana, B. Di Martino, J.J. Dongarra eds., LNCS series, Vol. 3726, 2005.
8. P. Belardini, C. Bertoli, S. Corsaro, P. D'Ambra, Multidimensional Modeling of Advanced Diesel Combustion System by Parallel Chemistry, in Proc. of Society Automotive Engineers World Congress, SAE Inc. Pub., 2005.
9. P. Belardini, C. Bertoli, S. Corsaro, P. D'Ambra, Parallel Simulation of Combustion in Common Rail Diesel Engines by Advanced Numerical Solution of Detailed Chemistry, in Applied and Industrial Mathematics in Italy, M. Primicerio, R. Spigler, V. Valente eds., World Scientific Pub., 2005.



**Thanks  
for your attention**