

## **A volume of fluid numerical algorithm for simulating multiphase incompressible flows with large density discontinuities**

Joshua J. Wagner & C. Fred Higgs III  
Particle Flow and Tribology Laboratory (PFTL)  
Department of Mechanical Engineering  
Rice University

Presented By  
**Joshua J. Wagner**



**TFAWS**  
JSC • 2018

Thermal & Fluids Analysis Workshop  
TFAWS 2018  
August 20-24, 2018  
NASA Johnson Space Center  
Houston, TX



# Outline



- Multiphase flow applications
- Modeling multifluid flows with volume of fluid (VOF)
  - Numerical algorithm
  - Volume fraction advection schemes
  - Test problems
- Multifluid flows with large, discontinuous density jumps
  - Difficulties, solution, and test problems
- Incorporating additional interfacial physics
  - Surface tension
  - Wall adhesion
- Conclusion

*Multiphase flow* is the simultaneous flow of material in different phases or in the same phase but with different flow properties

## Liquid-Gas (multifluid)

- Atomization of cryogenic propellant
- Fuel sloshing in tanks
- Lubrication systems

## Liquid-Liquid (multifluid)

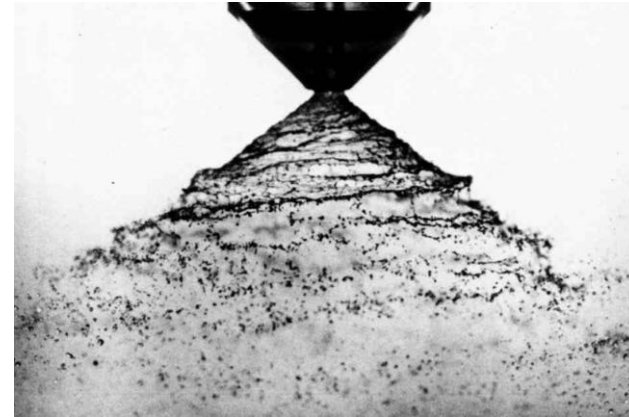
- Oil dispersion in water
- Microfluidics

## Gas-Solid

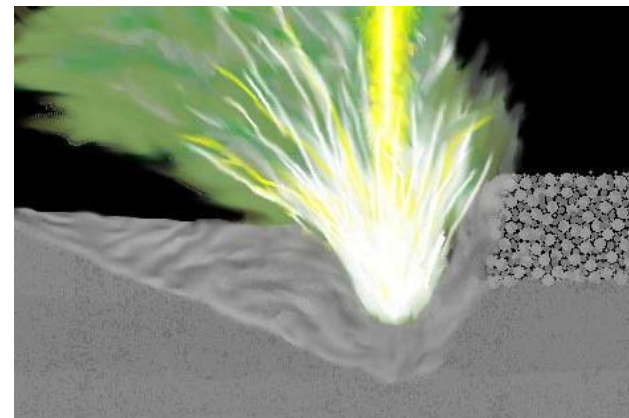
- Particle-laden rocket plumes
- Dust storms

## Liquid-Gas-Solid

- Additive manufacturing
- Nuclear and chemical reactors



Liquid jet atomization (Van Dyke, M., 1982)



Melt pool in laser additive manufacturing ([www.stratronics.com](http://www.stratronics.com))

## Volume of Fluid (VOF) method:

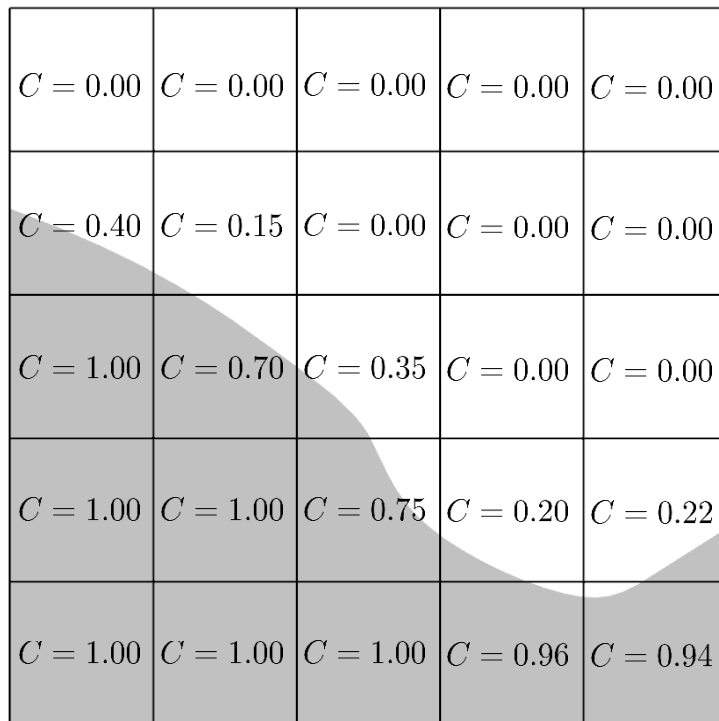
$$\frac{\partial(\rho \mathbf{u})}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{u} \otimes \mathbf{u}) = \nabla p + \nabla \cdot \mu(\nabla \mathbf{u} + \nabla \mathbf{u}^T) + \mathbf{F}_B \quad \text{on } \Omega \quad \forall t \in (0, T)$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0 \quad \text{on } \Omega \quad \forall t \in (0, T)$$

$$\rho = C\rho_1 + (C - 1)\rho_2$$

$$\mu = C\mu_1 + (C - 1)\mu_2$$

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



VOF representation of a fluid interface

Symbol	Variable
$\mathbf{u}$	Velocity
$p$	Pressure
$\rho$	Density
$\mu$	Dynamic viscosity
$\mathbf{f}$	Acceleration due to body force
$C$	Cell volume fraction

## Two-step projection method:

1. Calculate provisional velocity ( $\mathbf{u}^*$ ) ignoring pressure gradient term

$$\frac{(\rho \mathbf{u})^* - (\rho \mathbf{u})^n}{\Delta t} = -\mathbf{A}_h^n + \mathbf{D}_h^n + \mathbf{F}_B^n \quad \mathbf{A}_h^n = \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{u} \otimes \mathbf{u}),$$
$$\mathbf{D}_h^n = \nabla \cdot \mu (\nabla \mathbf{u} + \nabla \mathbf{u}^T)^n$$

2. Solve Poisson equation for pressure

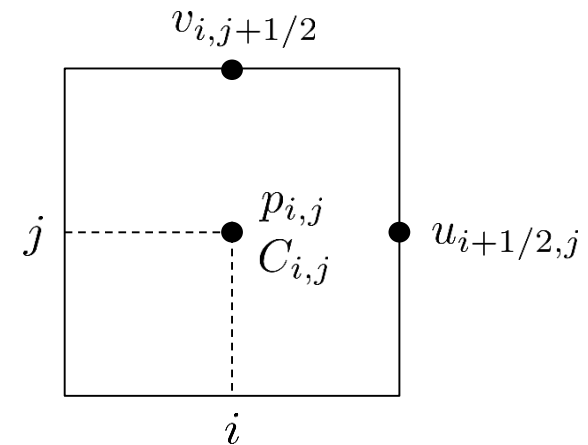
$$\nabla \cdot \left( \frac{1}{\rho^{n+1}} \nabla p^{n+1} \right) = \frac{1}{\Delta t} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}^*$$

3. Correct provisional velocity to be divergence-free

$$\frac{(\rho \mathbf{u})^{n+1} - (\rho \mathbf{u})^*}{\Delta t} = -\frac{1}{\rho^{n+1}} \nabla p^{n+1}$$

## Discretization

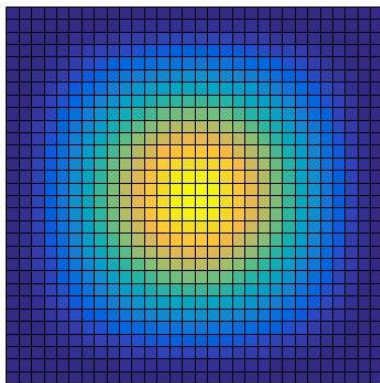
- Finite volume on staggered, Cartesian grid
- Van Leer's scheme for convective term



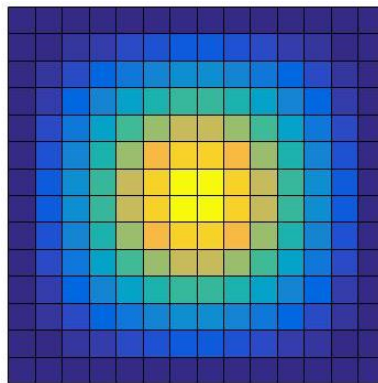
## Elliptic solver

- Geometric multigrid

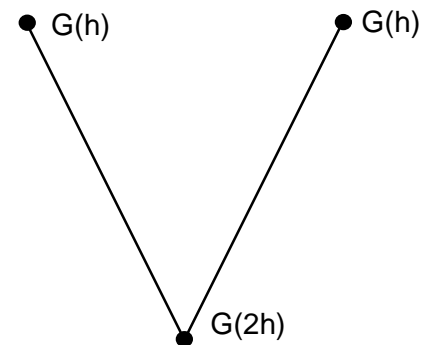
$$\nabla^2 p = f \quad p_{i,j}^{k+1} = \frac{1}{4}(p_{i-1,j}^{k+1} + p_{i+1,j}^k + p_{i,j-1}^{k+1} + p_{i,j+1}^k) - \frac{h^2}{4} f_{i,j} \quad \text{Gauss-Seidel}$$



G(h)



G(2h)



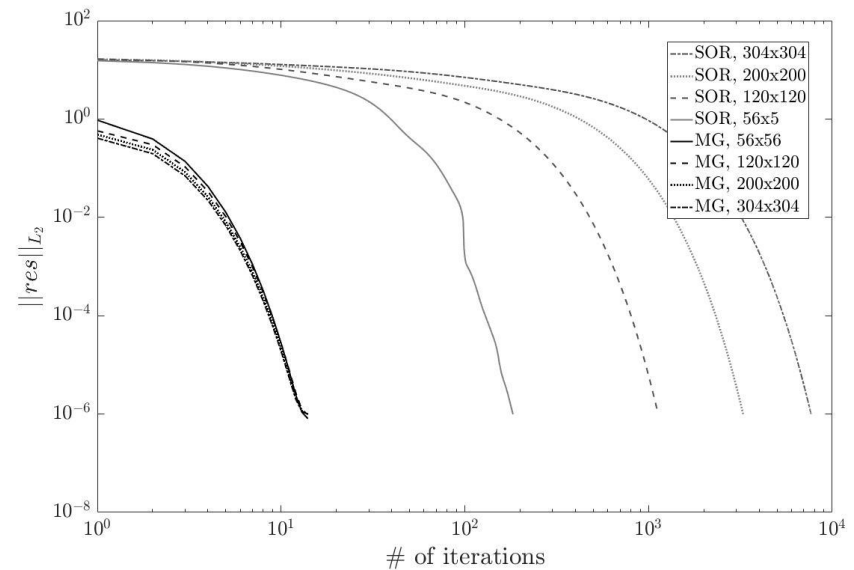
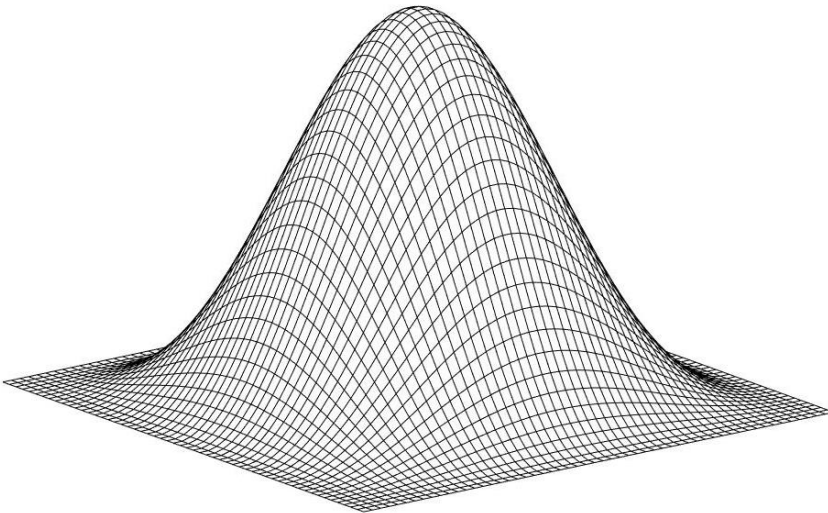
Two-grid V-cycle

## Multigrid test problem

$$\nabla \cdot \beta \nabla \phi = \theta$$

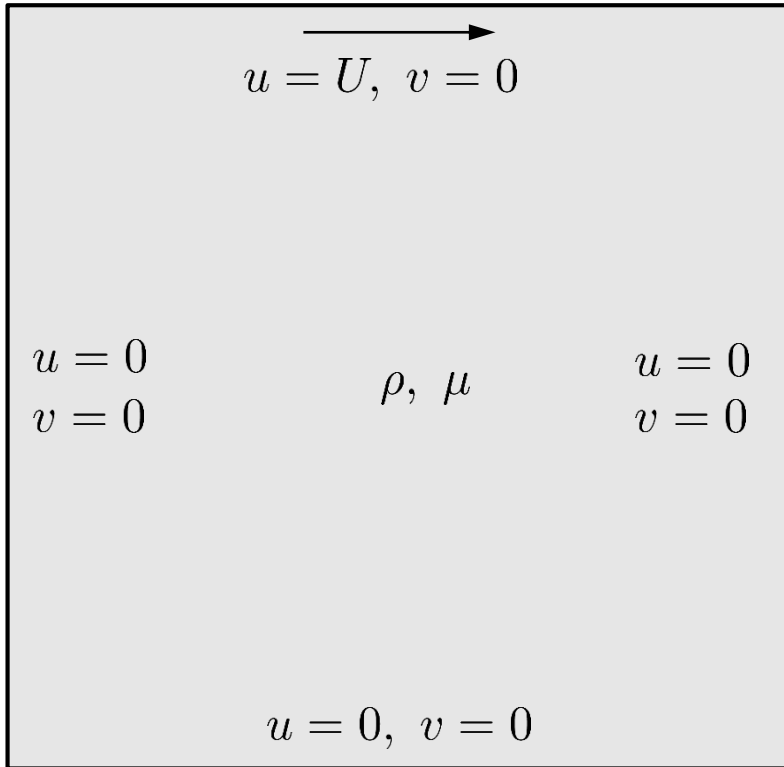
$$\beta = -1, \quad \theta = -2\pi^2 (\cos(2\pi x) \sin(\pi y) + \cos(2\pi y) \sin(\pi x))$$

$$\phi = 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega$$





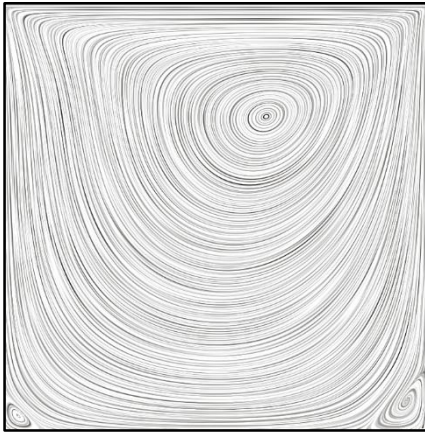
## Lid-driven cavity



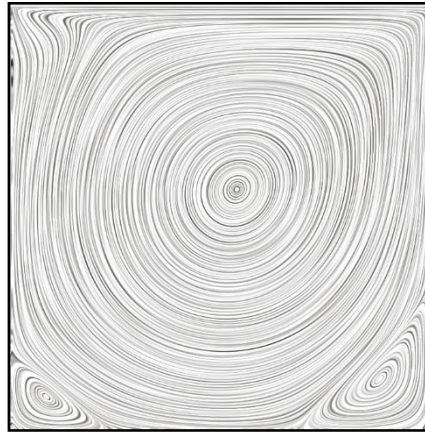
$Re = 40,000$



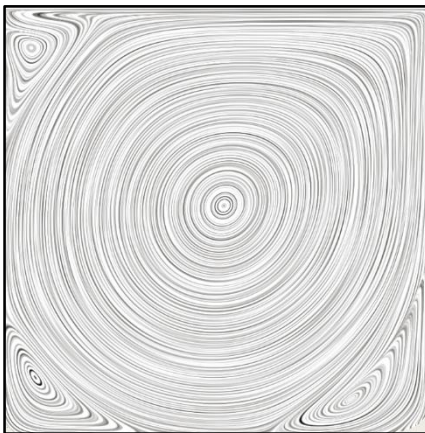
## Lid-driven cavity



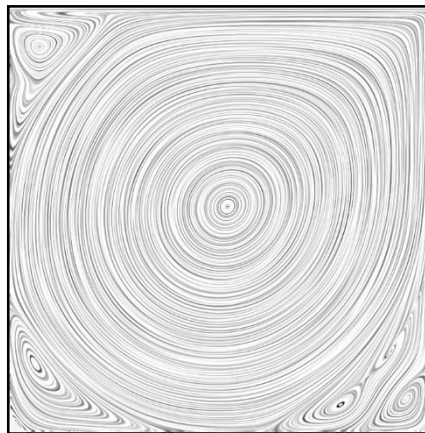
$Re = 100$



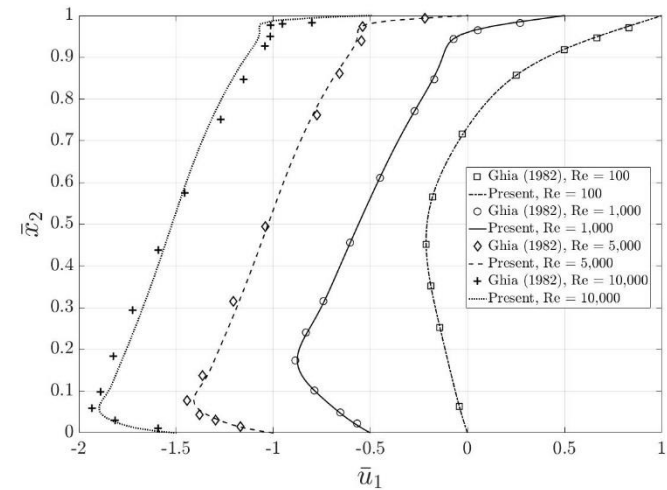
$Re = 1,000$



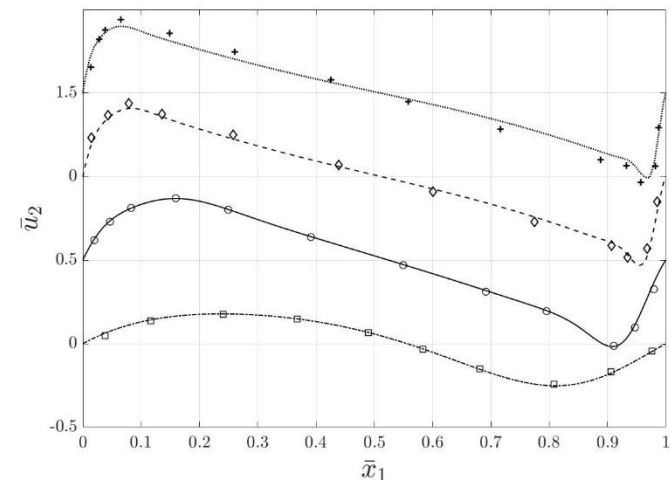
$Re = 5,000$



$Re = 10,000$



Horizontal velocity profile along centered vertical transect

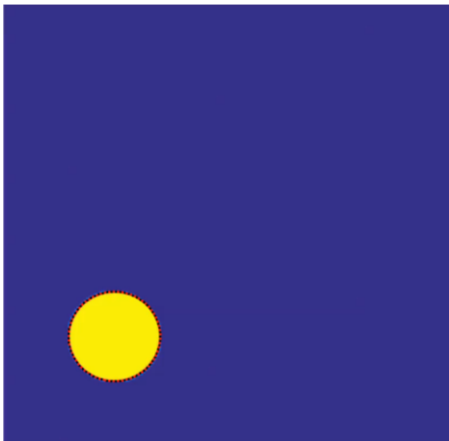
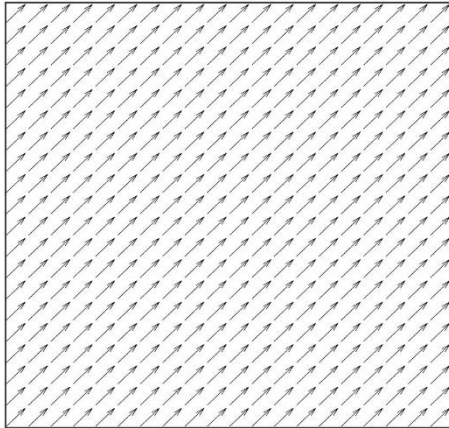


Vertical velocity profile along centered horizontal transect

Solving  $\frac{\partial C}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (C\mathbf{u}) = 0$  with upwind finite differences

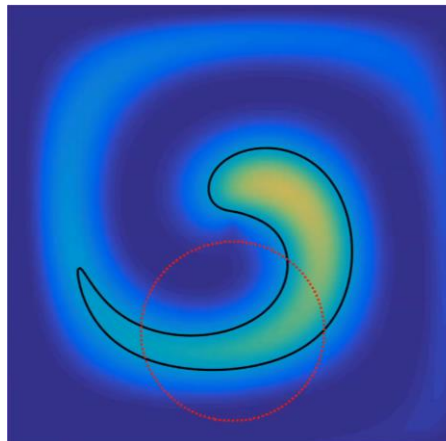
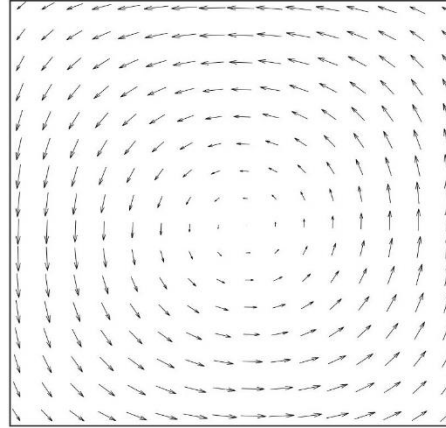
Translational Flow

$$u = 1, v = 1$$



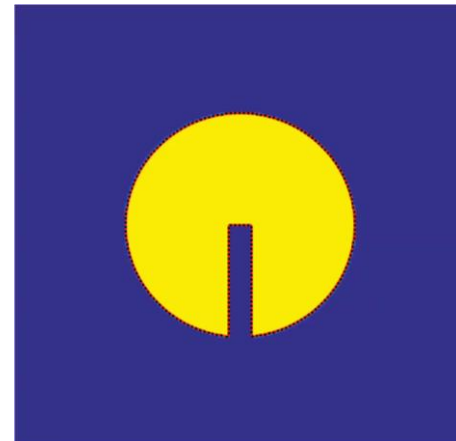
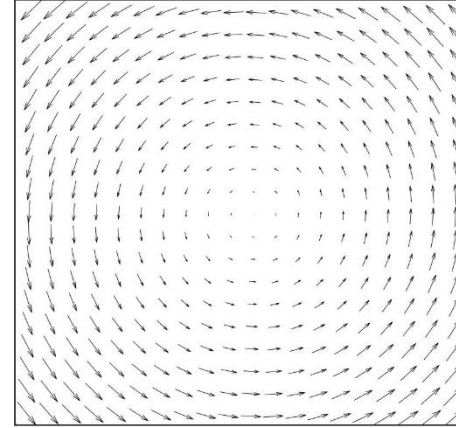
Shearing Vortex

$$u = \sin(\pi x) \cos(\pi y), v = -\sin(\pi y) \cos(\pi x)$$



Rigid-Body Vortex

$$u = 0.5 - y, v = x - 0.5$$



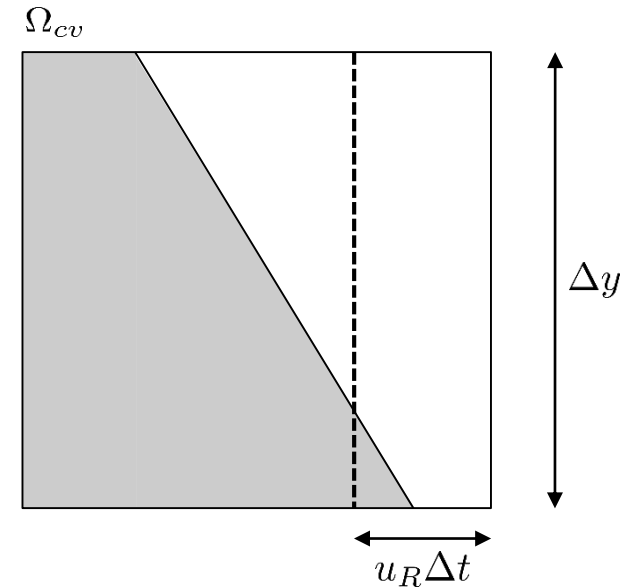
## Finite volume approach

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

$$\frac{1}{V_{\Omega_{cv}}} \iint_{\Omega_{cv}} \left( \frac{\partial C}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (C\mathbf{u}) \right) d\Omega = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{V_{\Omega_{cv}}} \oint_{\partial\Omega_{cv}} \left( C(\mathbf{u} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}}) \right) ds = 0$$

$$\frac{C^{n+1} - C^n}{\Delta t} = -\frac{1}{\Delta x \Delta y} (u_R C \Delta y - u_L C \Delta y + v_T C \Delta x - v_B C \Delta x)$$



$$C^* = C^n - \frac{1}{\Delta x \Delta y} (FV_R - FV_L)$$

$$C^{n+1} = C^* - \frac{1}{\Delta x \Delta y} (FV_T - FV_B)$$

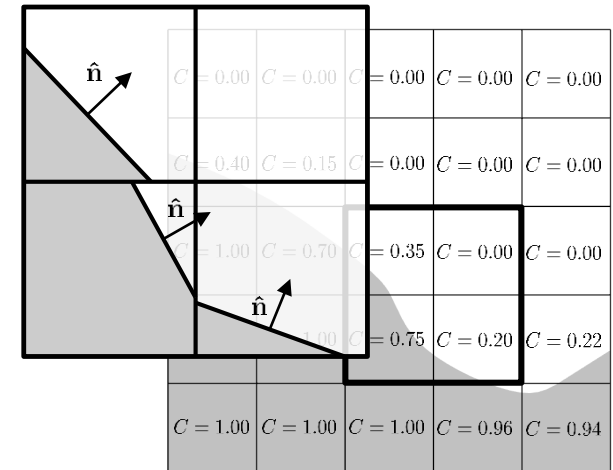
## Piecewise Linear Interface Calculation (PLIC)

### 1. Reconstruct interface

- Calculate interface normal vector

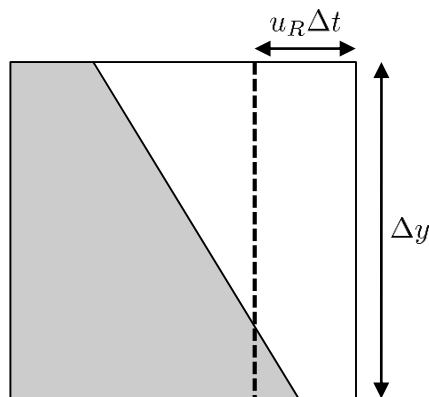
$$\hat{\mathbf{n}} = \frac{-\nabla C}{\|\nabla C\|}$$

- Cut cell using volume fraction

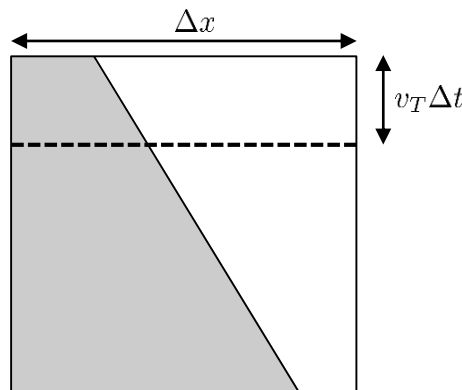


VOF representation of a fluid interface

### 2. Compute fluxed volumes



Right face



Top face

$$FV_R = \text{[shaded triangle]}$$

$$FV_L = \dots$$

$$FV_T = \text{[shaded trapezoid]}$$

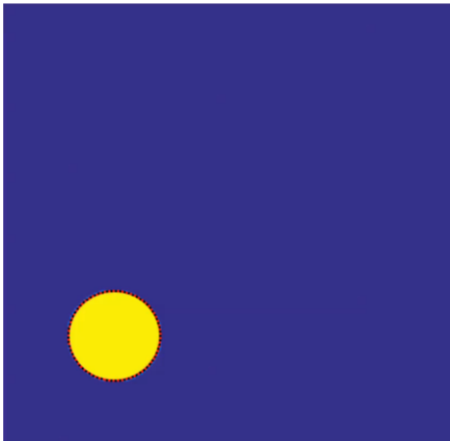
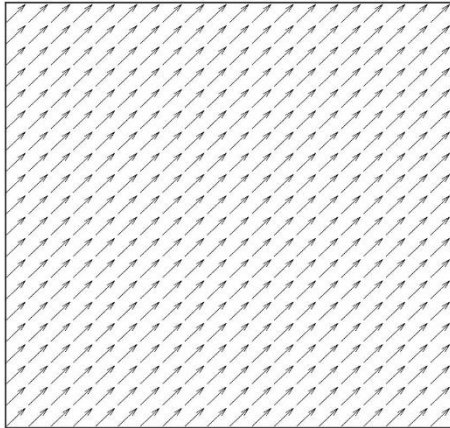
$$FV_B = \dots$$



Solving  $\frac{\partial C}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (C\mathbf{u}) = 0$  with PLIC

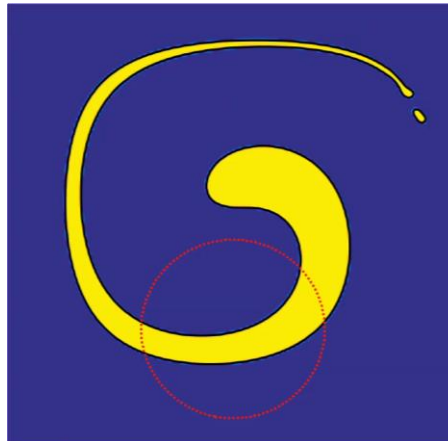
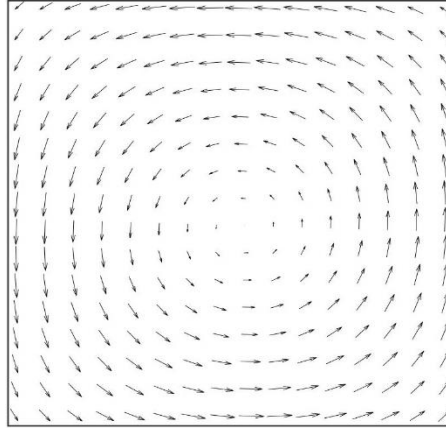
Translational Flow

$$u = 1, v = 1$$



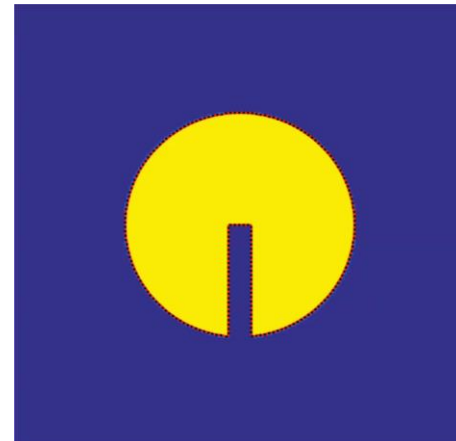
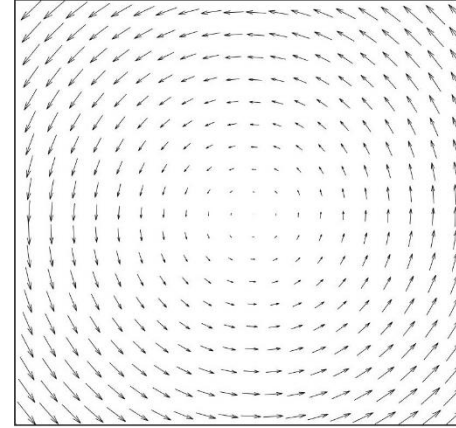
Shearing Vortex

$$u = \sin(\pi x) \cos(\pi y), v = -\sin(\pi y) \cos(\pi x)$$



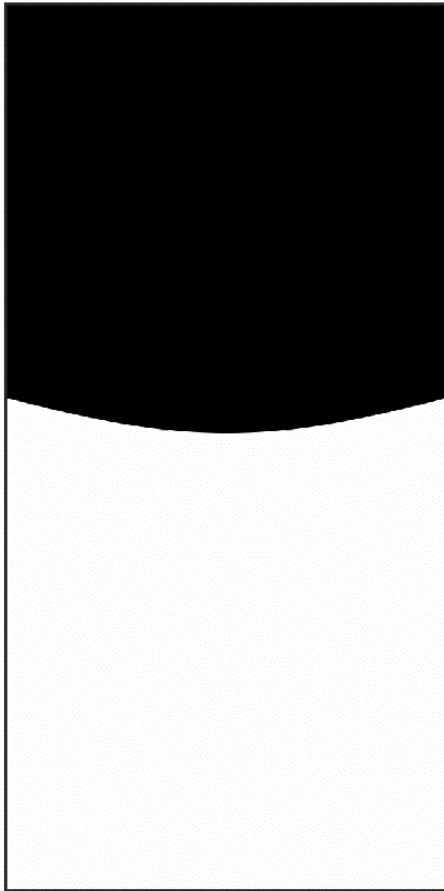
Rigid-Body Vortex

$$u = 0.5 - y, v = x - 0.5$$

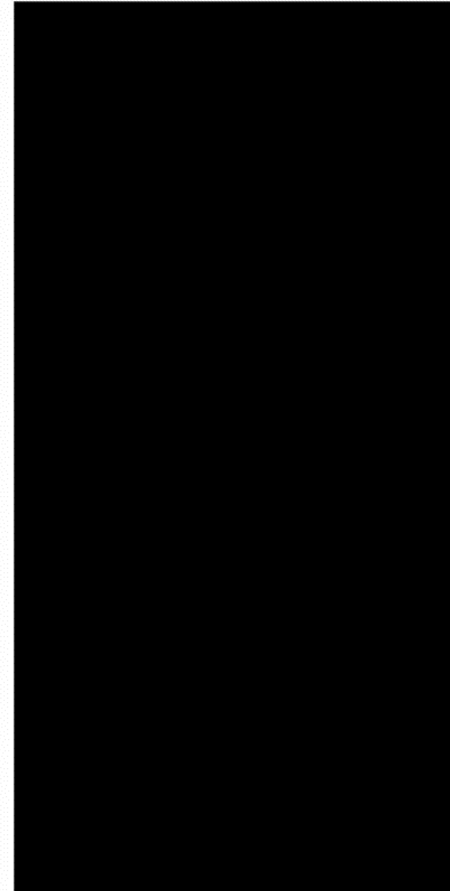


## Rayleigh-Taylor Instability

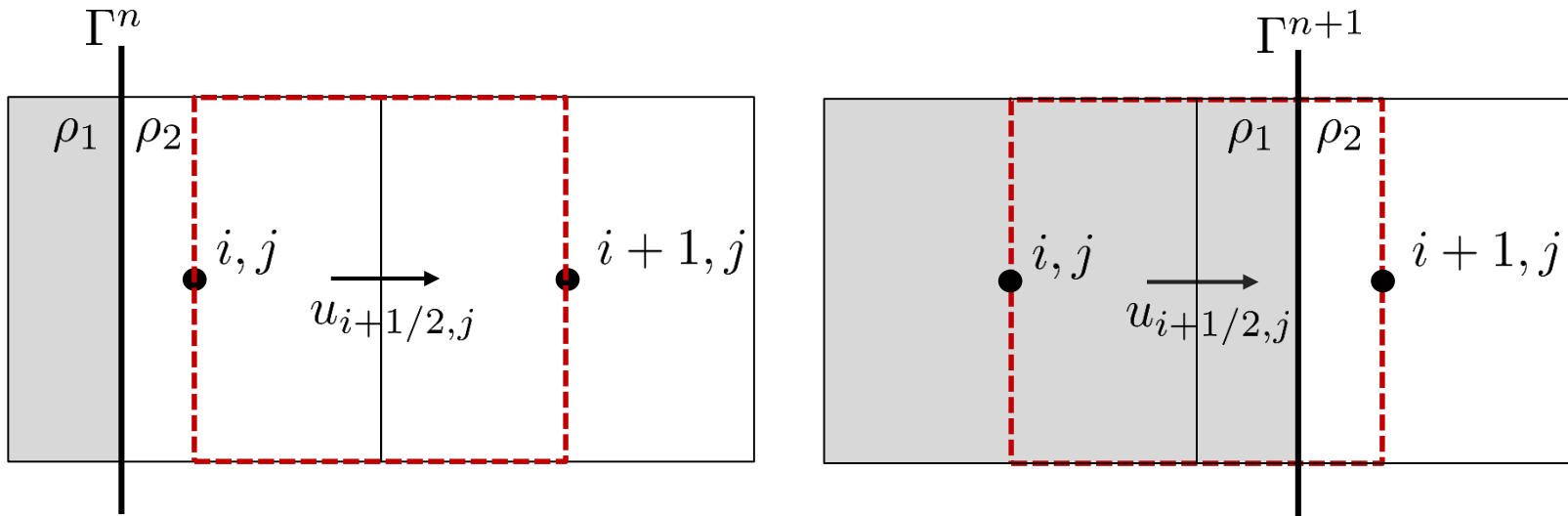
$$\rho_1/\rho_2 = 1.25$$



Volume Fraction



Velocity Magnitude



$$\frac{\partial(\rho \mathbf{u})}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{u} \otimes \mathbf{u}) = \cancel{\nabla p} + \cancel{\nabla \tau} + \cancel{\mathbf{F}_B}$$

$$\frac{(\rho \mathbf{u})_{i+1/2,j}^* - (\rho \mathbf{u})_{i+1/2,j}^n}{\Delta t} = -\nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{u} \otimes \mathbf{u})_{i+1/2,j}^n$$

$$\rho_{i+1/2,j} = \frac{1}{2}(\rho_{i+1,j} + \rho_{i,j})$$

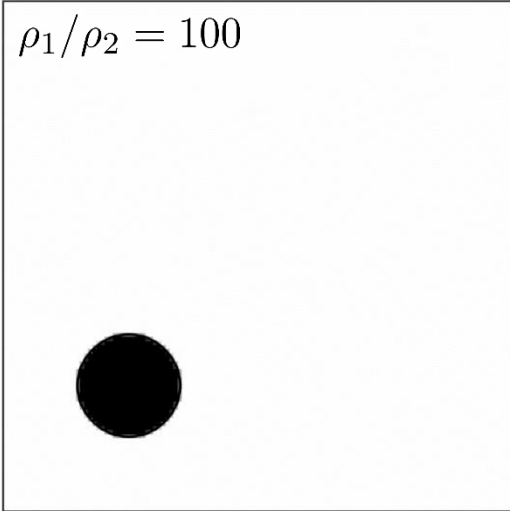
Is this a good approximation?



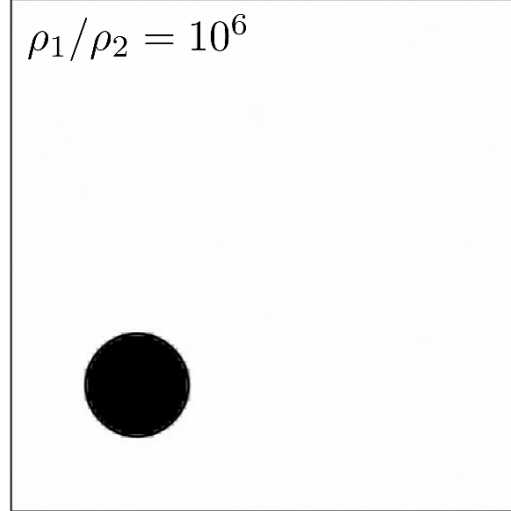
# Large density ratio flow tests

$$u_0 = 1, v_0 = 1$$

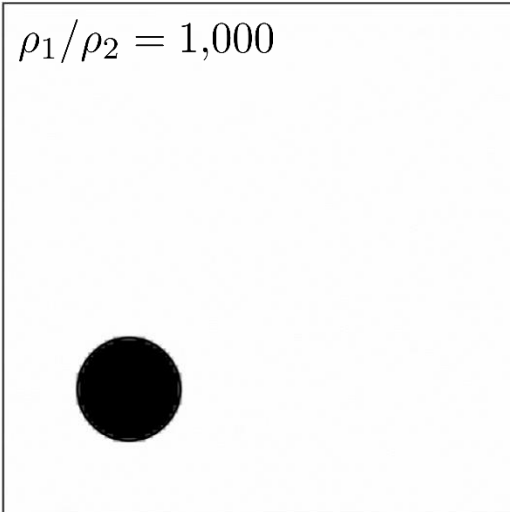
$$\rho_1/\rho_2 = 100$$



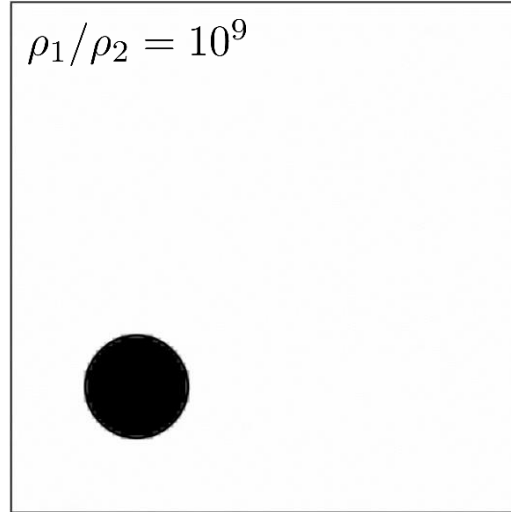
$$\rho_1/\rho_2 = 10^6$$



$$\rho_1/\rho_2 = 1,000$$



$$\rho_1/\rho_2 = 10^9$$

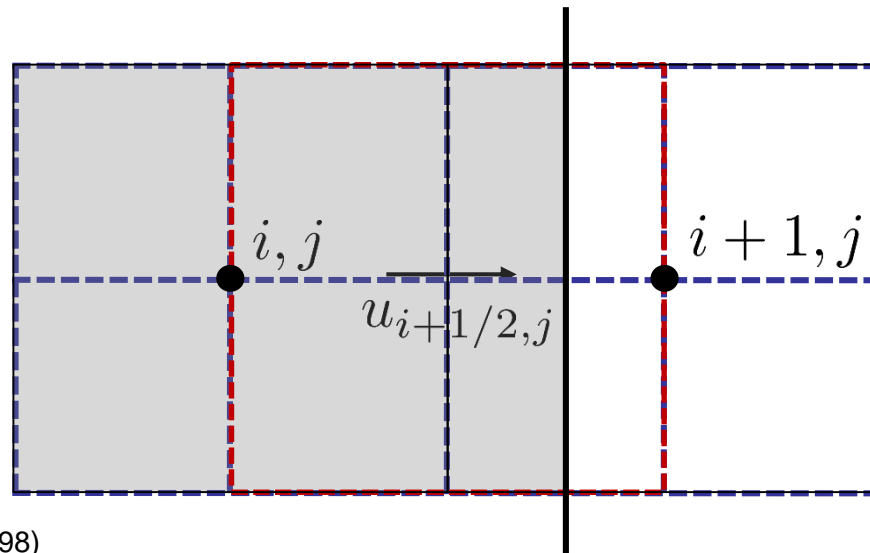


## Consistent mass-momentum advection

$$(\rho \mathbf{u})_{i+1/2,j}^* - (\rho \mathbf{u})_{i+1/2,j}^n = -\Delta t \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{u} \otimes \mathbf{u})_{i+1/2,j}^n$$

$$\frac{\Delta t}{V_{\Omega_{cv}}} \iint_{\Omega_{cv}} \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{u} \otimes \mathbf{u})_{i+1/2,j}^n d\Omega = \frac{\Delta t}{V_{\Omega_{cv}}} \oint_{\partial \Omega_{cv}} \rho \mathbf{u} (\mathbf{u} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}}) ds$$

$$(\rho \mathbf{u})_{i+1/2,j}^* - (\rho \mathbf{u})_{i+1/2,j}^n = -\frac{1}{\Delta x \Delta y} \left( \underbrace{\langle \rho \mathbf{u}_{i+1,j} \Delta t \Delta y \rangle}_{m_{i+1,j}} \mathbf{u}_{i+1,j} - \underbrace{\langle \rho \mathbf{u}_{i,j} \Delta t \Delta y \rangle}_{m_{i,j}} \mathbf{u}_{i,j} \right)$$



(Rudman, M., 1998)

# Large density ratio flow tests

$$u_0 = 1, v_0 = 1$$

$$\rho_1/\rho_2 = 100$$



$$\rho_1/\rho_2 = 10^6$$



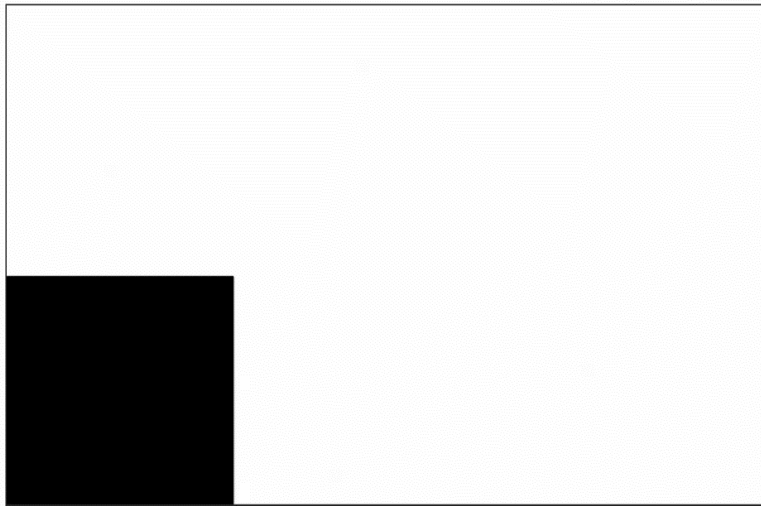
$$\rho_1/\rho_2 = 1,000$$



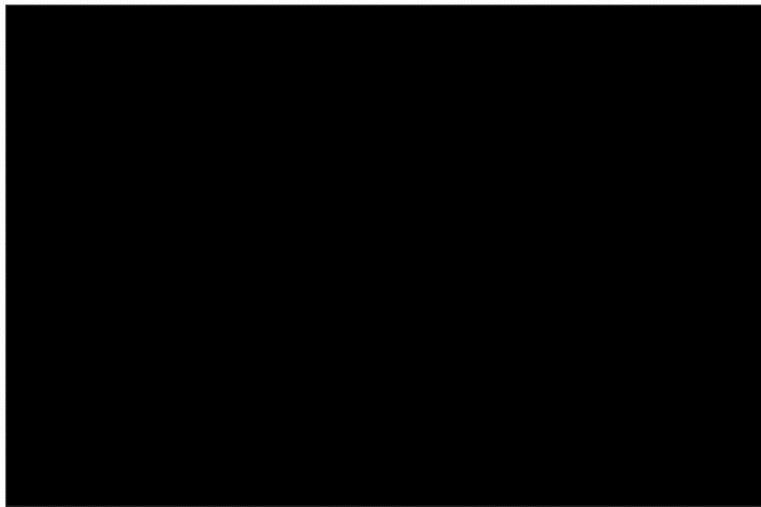
$$\rho_1/\rho_2 = 10^9$$



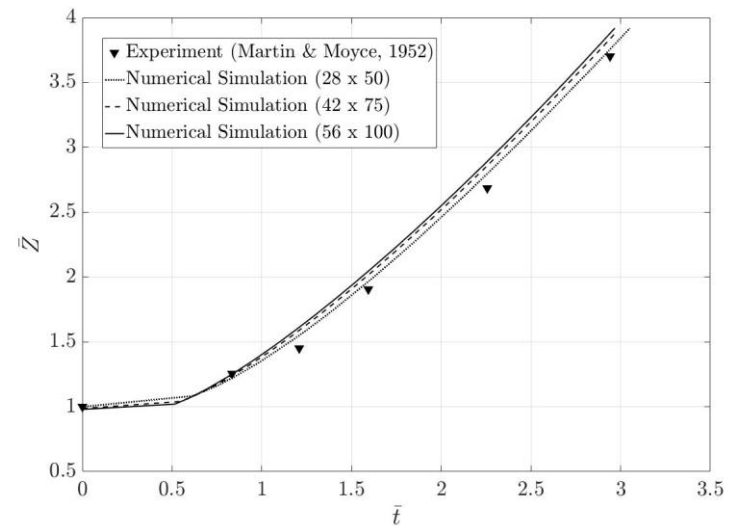
# Collapsing water column (dam break)



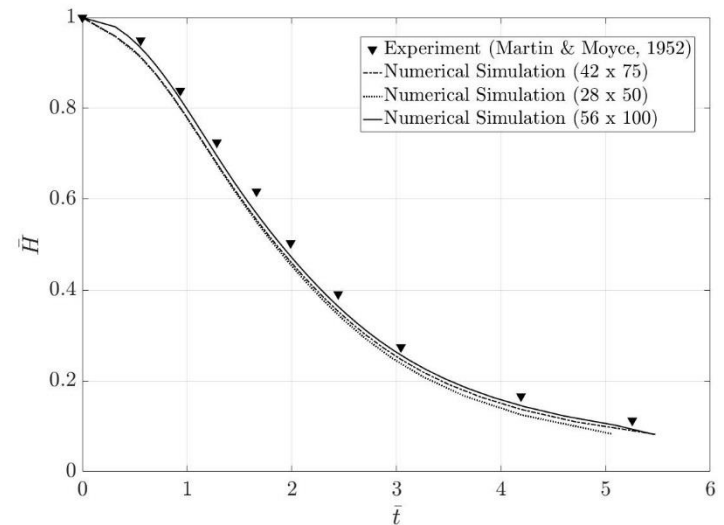
Volume Fraction



Velocity Magnitude



Surge front with time

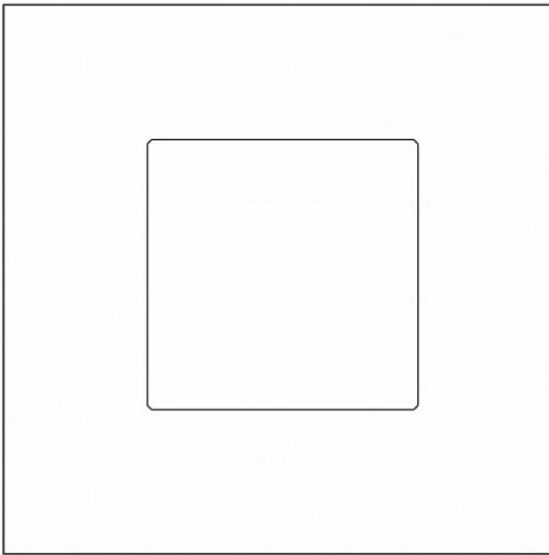


Column height with time

## Continuum surface force (CSF) method

(Brackbill J.U., Kothe, D.B., and Zemach, C., 1991)

$$\frac{\partial(\rho \mathbf{u})}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{u} \otimes \mathbf{u}) = \nabla p + \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau} + \mathbf{F}_B + \mathbf{F}_{ST}, \quad \mathbf{F}_{ST} = \sigma \kappa \nabla C, \quad \kappa = -\nabla \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}}$$

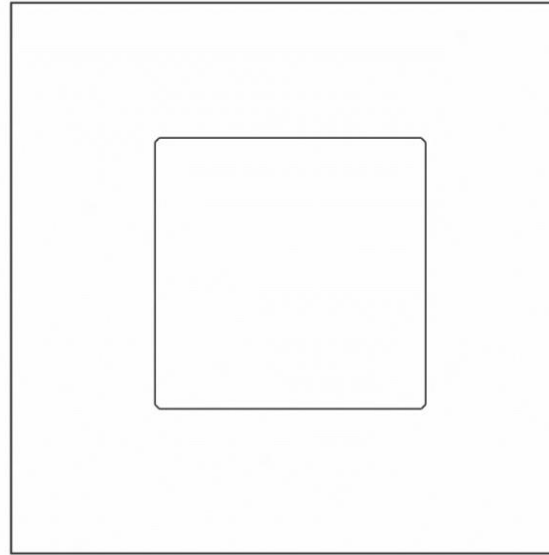


Glycerin

$$\rho = 1,260 \text{ kg/m}^3$$

$$\mu = 0.950 \text{ Pa} \cdot \text{s}$$

$$\sigma = 0.064 \text{ N/m}$$

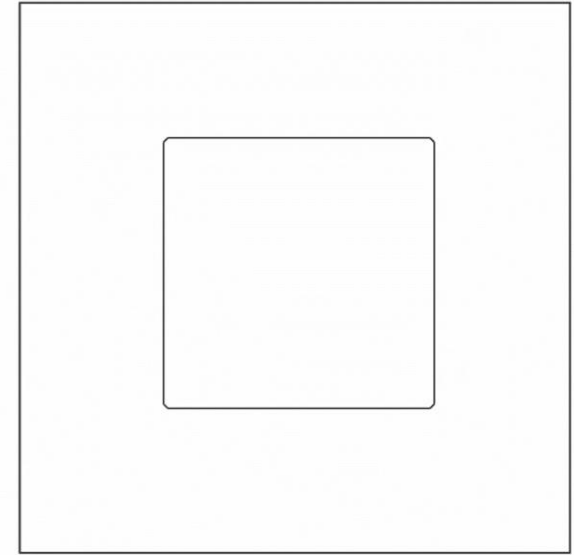


Engine Oil

$$\rho = 856.7 \text{ kg/m}^3$$

$$\mu = 0.122 \text{ Pa} \cdot \text{s}$$

$$\sigma = 0.036 \text{ N/m}$$



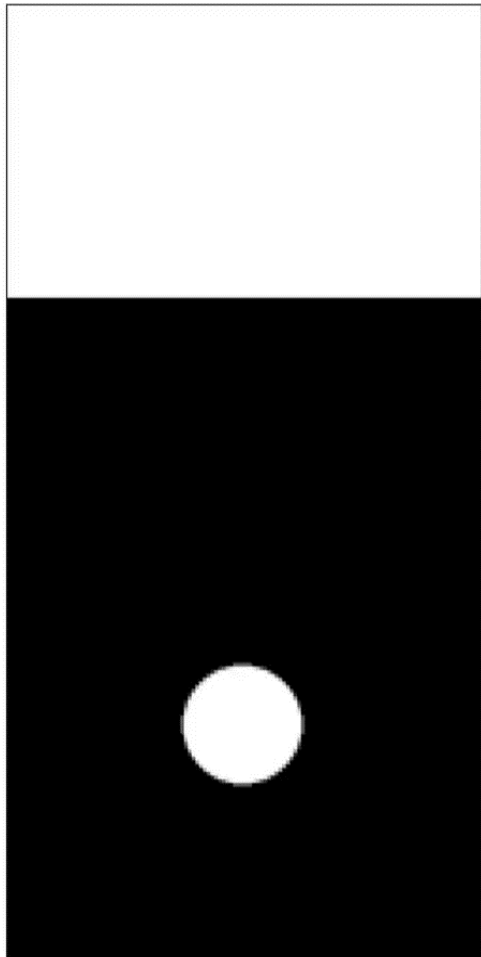
Liquid Hydrogen

$$\rho = 70.8 \text{ kg/m}^3$$

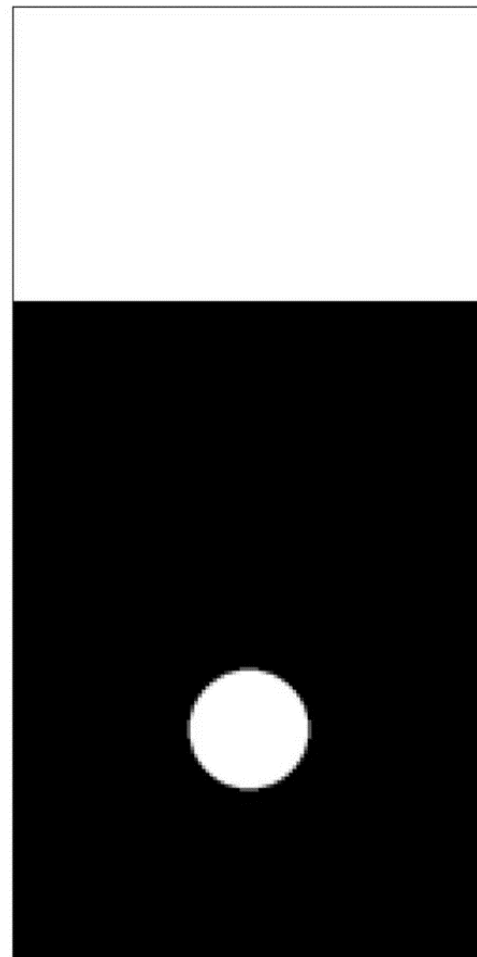
$$\mu = 1.35 \times 10^{-5} \text{ Pa} \cdot \text{s}$$

$$\sigma = 1.93 \times 10^{-3} \text{ N/m}$$

## Rising bubble in quiescent liquid



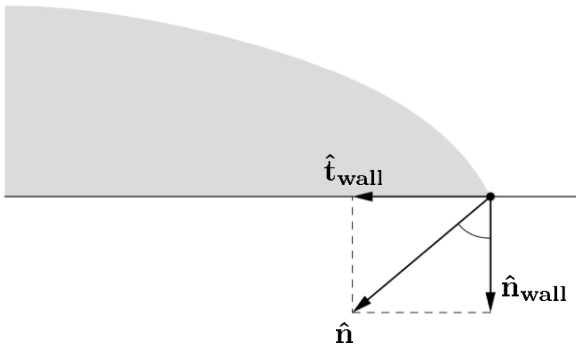
$$\begin{aligned}\rho_o/\rho_i &= 1,000 \\ \mu_o/\mu_i &= 100 \\ Bo &= \infty\end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned}\rho_o/\rho_i &= 1,000 \\ \mu_o/\mu_i &= 100 \\ Bo &= 5.983\end{aligned}$$

## Contact angle treatment

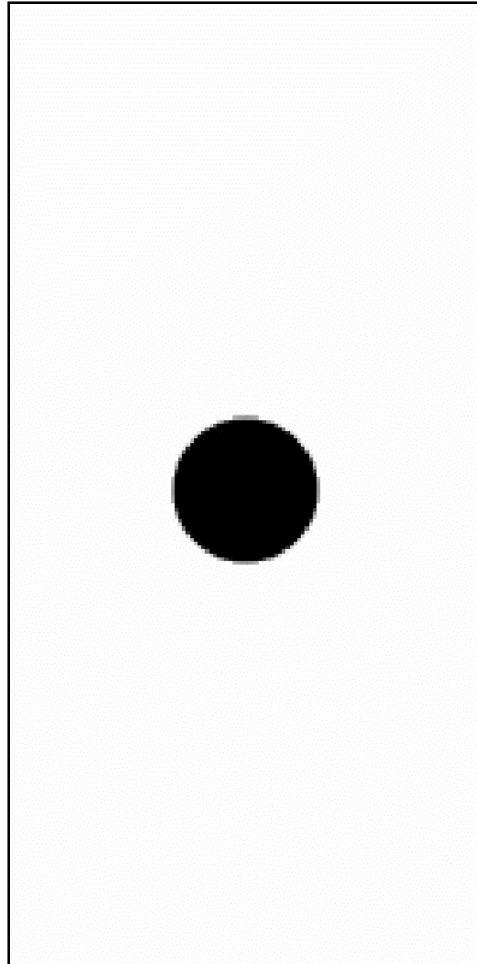
$$Bo = 0.2759$$



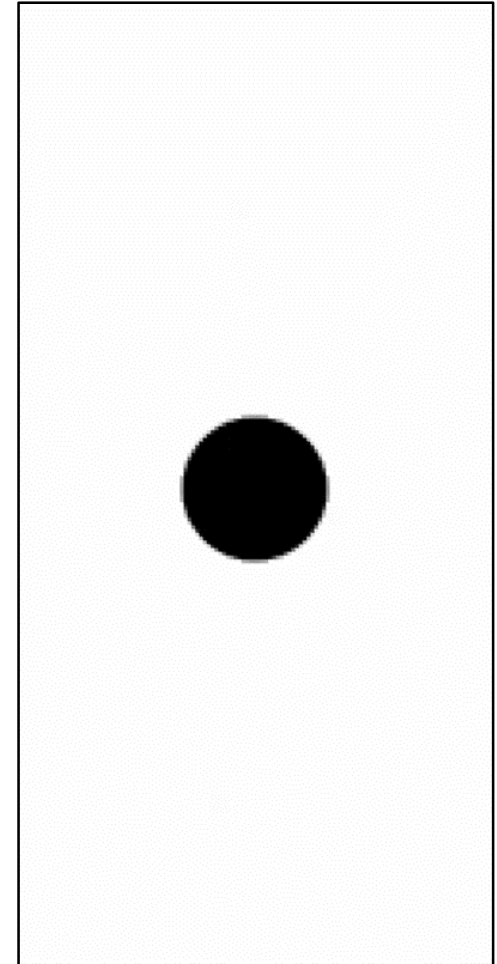
$$\mathbf{F}_{ST} = \sigma \kappa \nabla C$$

$$\kappa = -\nabla \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}}$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{n}} = \hat{\mathbf{n}}_{\text{wall}} \cos \theta_c + \hat{\mathbf{t}}_{\text{wall}} \sin \theta_c$$



$$\theta_c = 70^\circ$$



$$\theta_c = 170^\circ$$



## Summary

- VOF method for modeling interfacial flows with large density jumps requires:
  1. Scalar advection scheme that preserves sharp interfaces
  2. Tight coupling between mass and momentum advection

## Future work

- Extend to three-dimensions
- Incorporate rigid-body dynamics module for fluid-object interaction
- Employ framework to investigate interfacial flow problems in additive manufacturing, aerospace, energy, biomedical, and other applications



# Acknowledgements



- American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Foundation
- Rice undergraduate researchers:
  - Rahul Kilambi
  - Natalie Pippolo



# Bibliography



- Rudman, M. (1998). A volume-tracking method for incompressible multifluid flows with large density variations. *International Journal for numerical methods in fluids*, 28(2), 357-378.
- Bussmann, M., Kothe, D. B., & Sicilian, J. M. (2002, January). Modeling high density ratio incompressible interfacial flows. In *ASME 2002 Joint US-European Fluids Engineering Division Conference* (pp. 707-713). American Society of Mechanical Engineers.
- Raessi, M., & Pitsch, H. (2012). Consistent mass and momentum transport for simulating incompressible interfacial flows with large density ratios using the level set method. *Computers & Fluids*, 63, 70-81.
- Rider, W. J., & Kothe, D. B. (1998). Reconstructing volume tracking. *Journal of computational physics*, 141(2), 112-152.
- Brackbill, J. U., Kothe, D. B., & Zemach, C. (1992). A continuum method for modeling surface tension. *Journal of computational physics*, 100(2), 335-354.