

**CCSI<sup>2</sup>**

Carbon Capture Simulation for Industry Impact

## Solvent Model Validation Hierarchy

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

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AT AUSTIN



Carnegie Mellon

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# Solvent model validation framework to optimize CO<sub>2</sub> capture

Absorber column with commercial packing and intensified packing device for intrastage cooling



Absorber columns have complex multiscale, multiphysics dynamics.

Intrastage cooling using a non-optimized intensified device can increase CO<sub>2</sub> capture efficiency by 5–25%, with almost 40% reduction in column size.

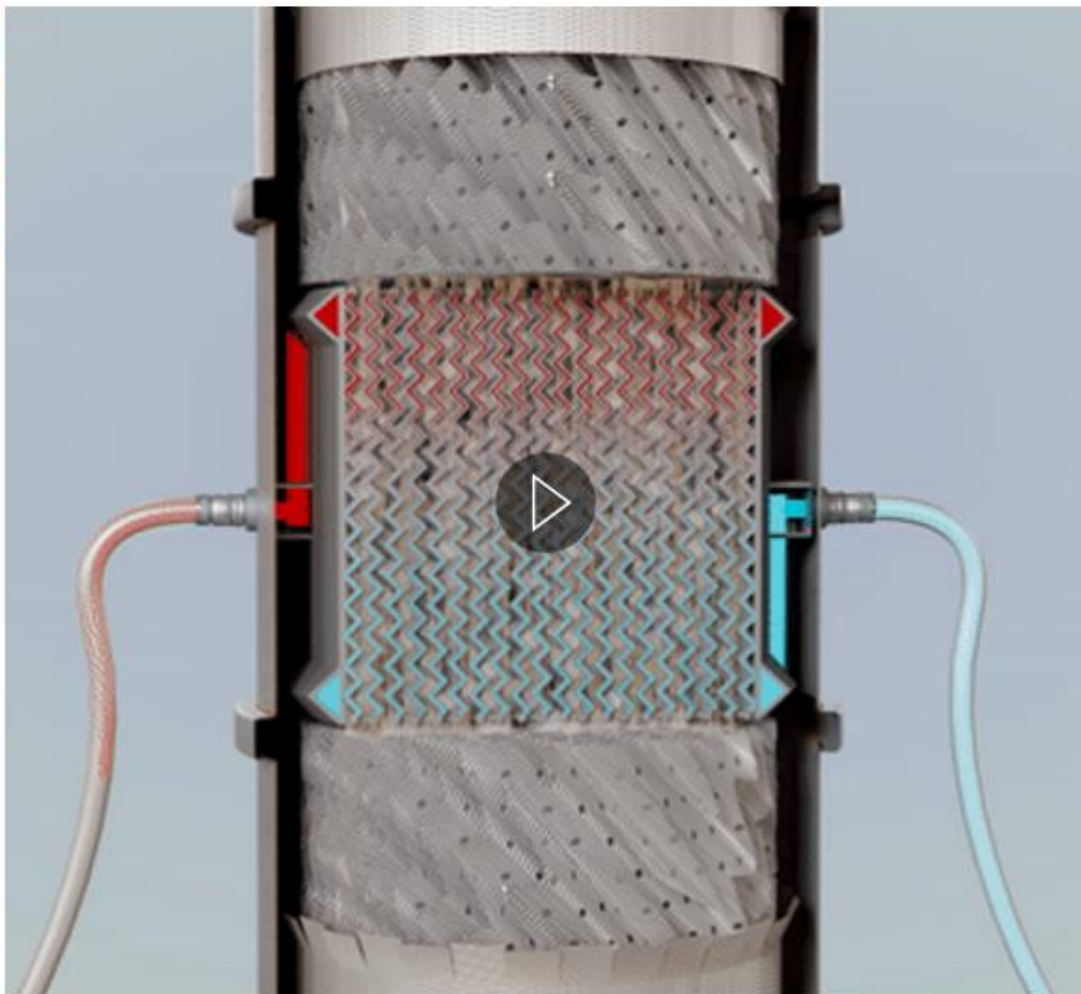
**We have developed an integrated approach for process optimization.**



Intensified device for intrastage cooling to control absorber column temperature profile

# Solvent model validation framework to optimize CO<sub>2</sub> capture

Absorber column with commercial packing and intensified packing device for intrastage cooling



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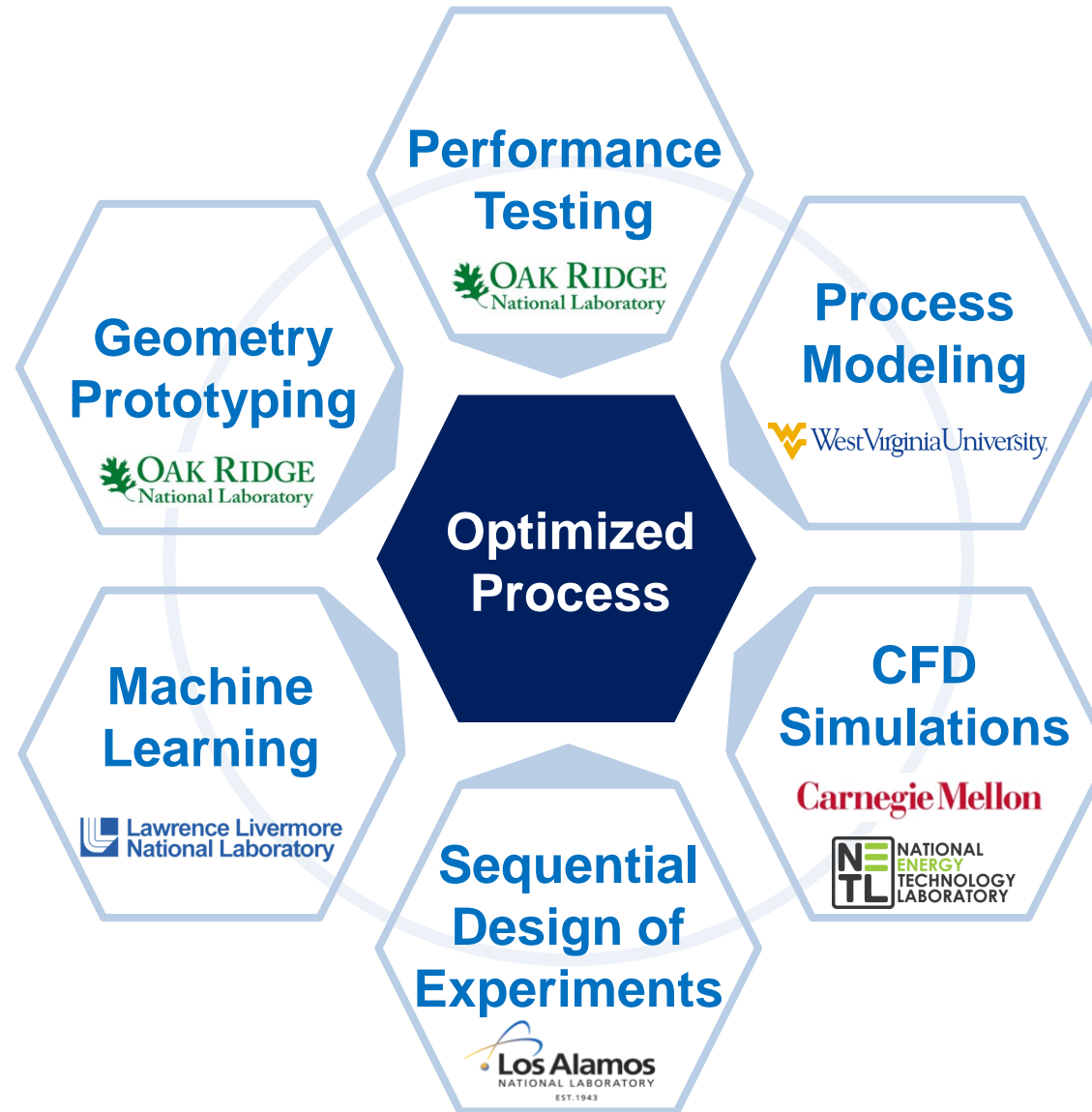
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Intensified device for intrastage cooling to control absorber column temperature profile

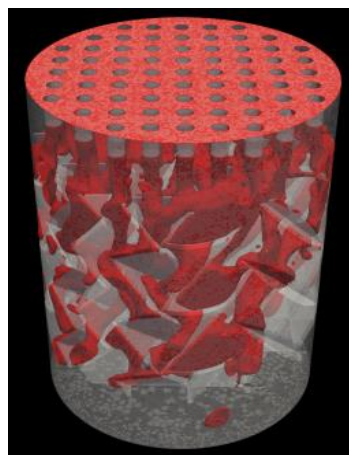
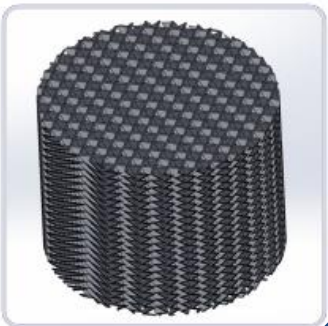
# Multi-pronged approach to validate solvent models



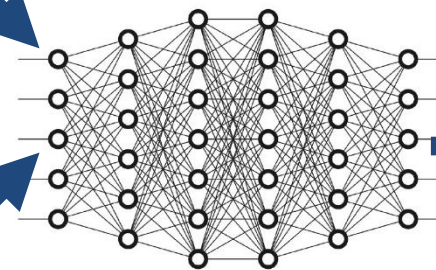
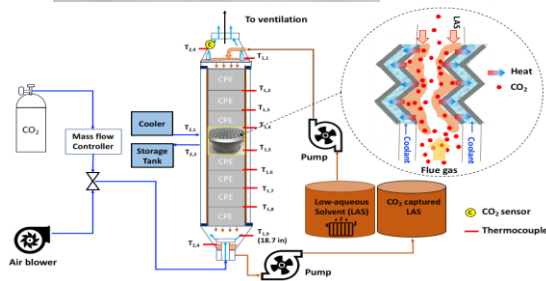
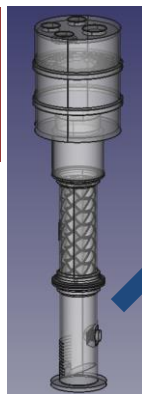
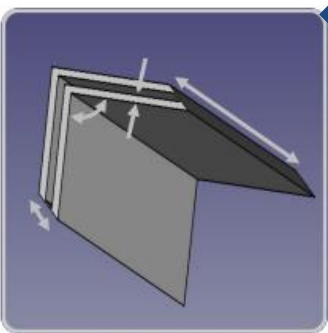
CFD model & simulations

# Overall optimization strategy

Candidate geometry & operating conditions

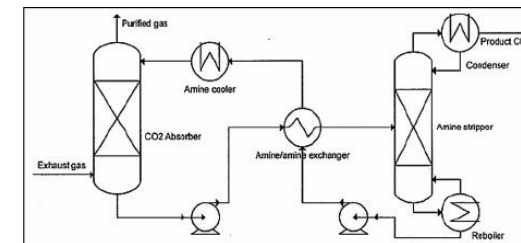


Device manufacturing, column setup and experimentation

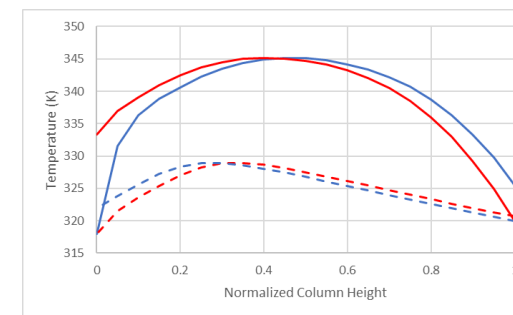


ML Training

Process modeling & optimization

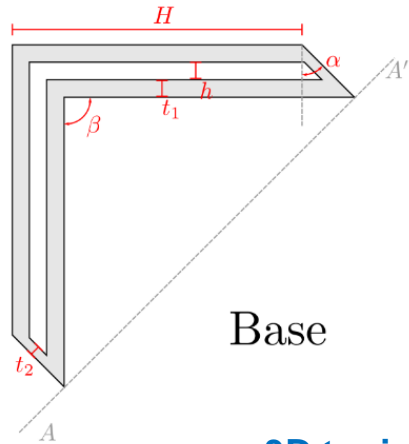


$$\begin{aligned} & \min f(x) \\ & \text{s. t. } g(x) \geq b \\ & h(x) = 0 \\ & x \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

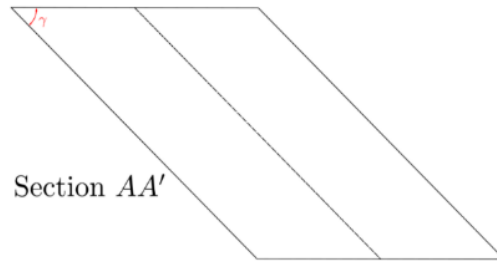


Update Geometry/UQ

# Geometric parametrization in 2D and 3D



3D tuning parameters



3D candidate geometries



$\beta = 60^\circ$   
 $\gamma = 45^\circ$



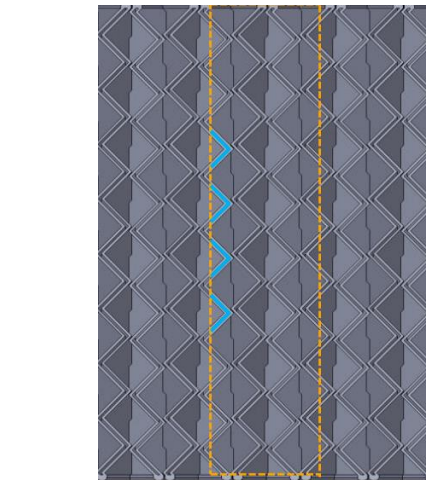
$\beta = 90^\circ$   
 $\gamma = 45^\circ$



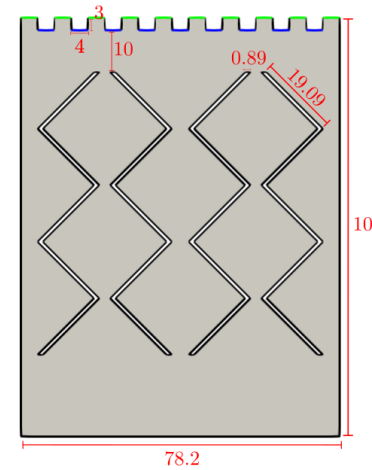
$\beta = 60^\circ$   
 $\gamma = 60^\circ$

```

181
182 #L_mat # 3 permutations
183 #pack_gap # 3 permutations
184 #t_mat # 2 permutations
185
186 # ===== User Parameters =====
187 #name = "doc1"
188 column_radius = 38.1
189 column_height = 180
190 Ldrip = 3
191 Wdrip = 4
192 Ndrip = 9
193 Wgas = (2.*column_radius - Ndrip*Wdrip)/(Ndrip + 1)
194 tcol = 0.89
195 Lpack = 12 #13.5 #13.5*np.sqrt(2.)
196 dpack = 17
197 dpack_wall = Wgas*1.
198 pack_gap = 2.*tcol
199 #NpackY = 7
200 #theta1 = 30.
201 #theta2 = 2.*theta1
202 # =====
203
204 theta_mat = [30., 45., 60.]
205 L_mat = [11., 13., 15.]
206 pack_mat = [2.*tcol, 3.*tcol, 4.*tcol]
207
208 permutations = []
209 for k in range(len(pack_mat)):
210     for j in range(len(L_mat)):
211         for i in range(len(theta_mat)):
212             permutations.append((i,j,k))
213
  
```

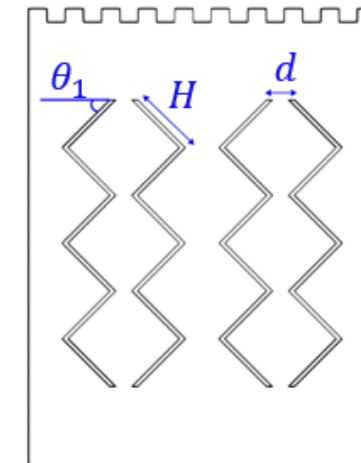


Cross-section of intensified packing design



2D packing

(All dimensions in mm.)



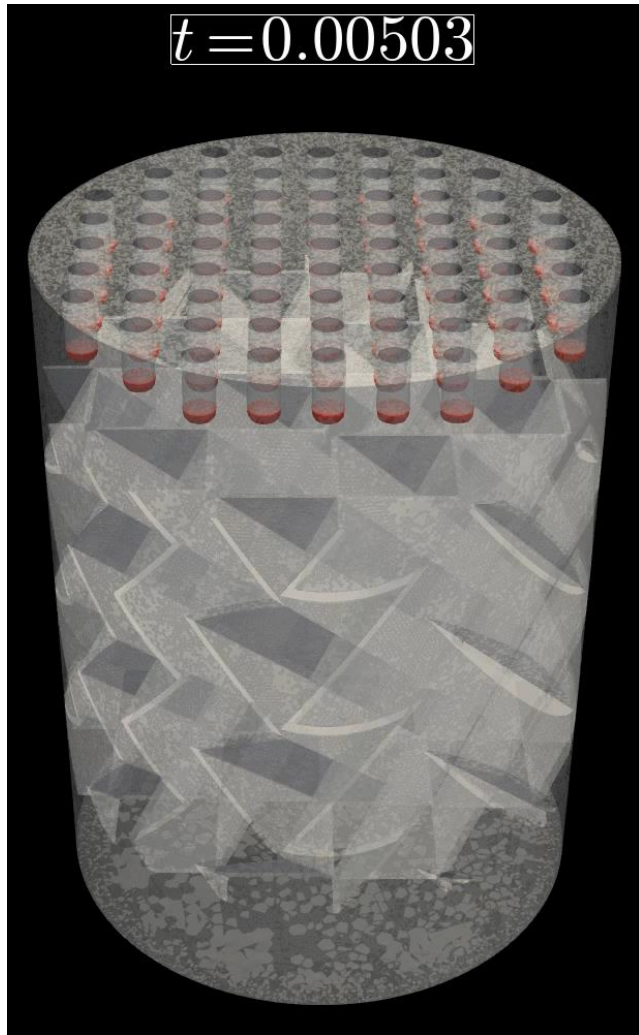
2D tuning parameters

Packing #	$\theta_1$	H (mm)	d (mm)
1	30	10	1.78
2	45	10	1.78
3	60	10	1.78
4	30	13	1.78
5	45	13	1.78
6	60	13	1.78
7	30	14.8	1.78
8	45	14.8	1.78
9	60	14.8	1.78
10	30	10	2.67
11	45	10	2.67
12	60	10	2.67
13	30	13	2.67
14	45	13	2.67
15	60	13	2.67
16	30	14.8	2.67
17	45	14.8	2.67
18	60	14.8	2.67
19	30	10	3.56
20	45	10	3.56
21	60	10	3.56
22	30	13	3.56
23	45	13	3.56
24	60	13	3.56
25	30	14.8	3.56
26	45	14.8	3.56
27	60	14.8	3.56

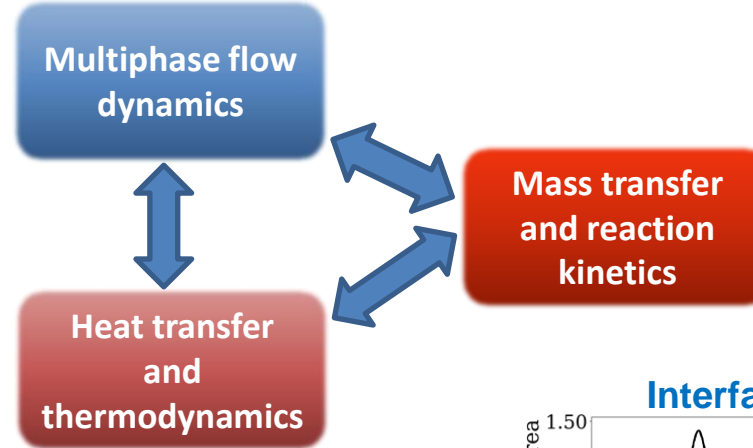
27 packing design permutations

Scripts for automated packing generation 2D/3D

# 3D simulation framework



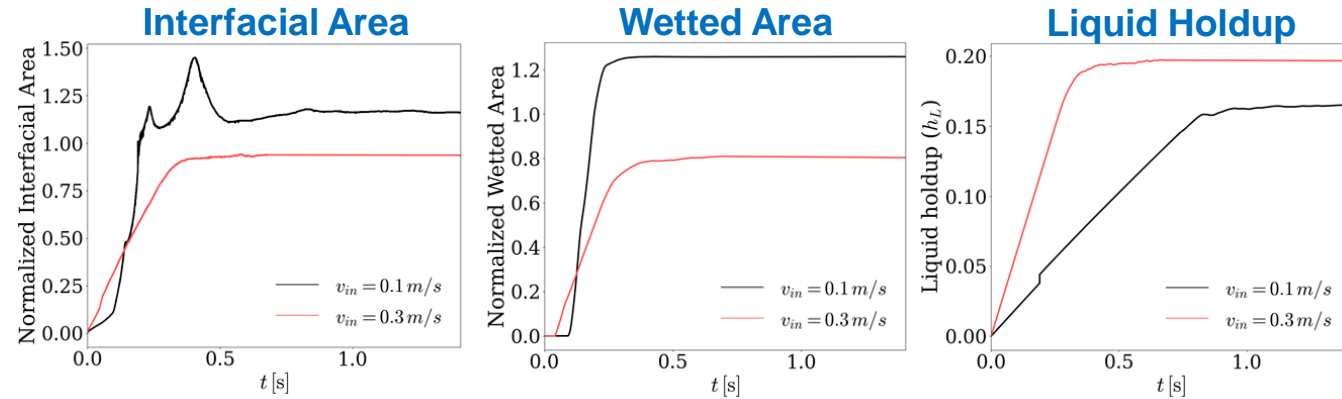
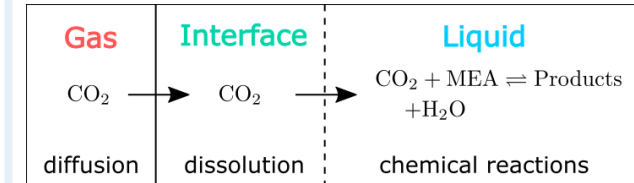
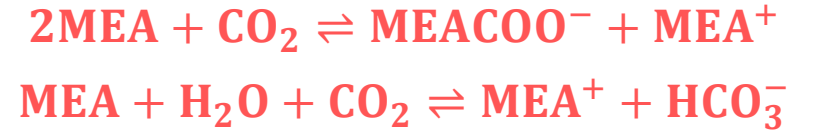
Coupled multiscale, multiphysics



Flow predictions

INNOVATIONS ►

IDAES framework in Fluent & OpenFOAM



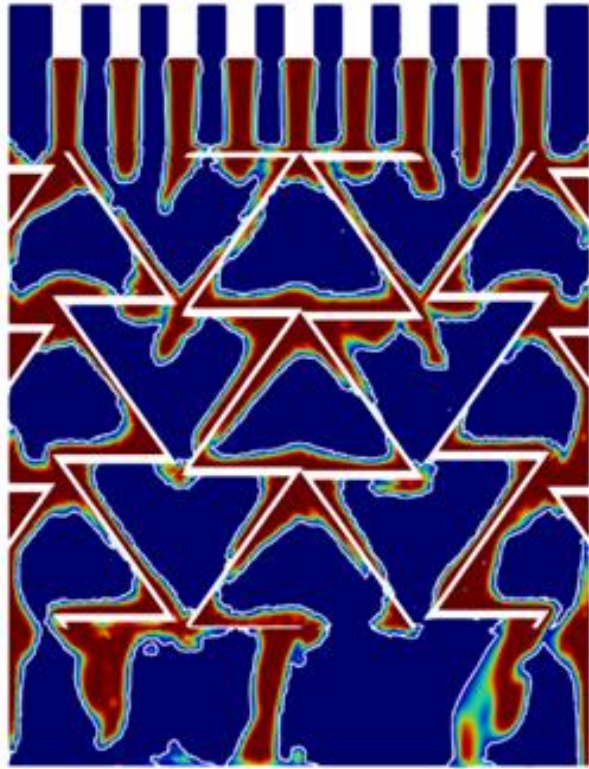
- First-ever implementation of the IDAES detailed reaction dynamics and thermodynamics in absorption CFD
- Unique, coupled multiphysics approach covering mass, momentum and heat transfer
- Locally dependent material properties

Solvent: 30% MEA, 70% H<sub>2</sub>O (by mass)  
 Flue gas: 10% CO<sub>2</sub>, 1.5% H<sub>2</sub>O, 88.5% N<sub>2</sub> (by mass)



# Preliminary indicative 3D simulation results

$t=1.84\text{ s}$



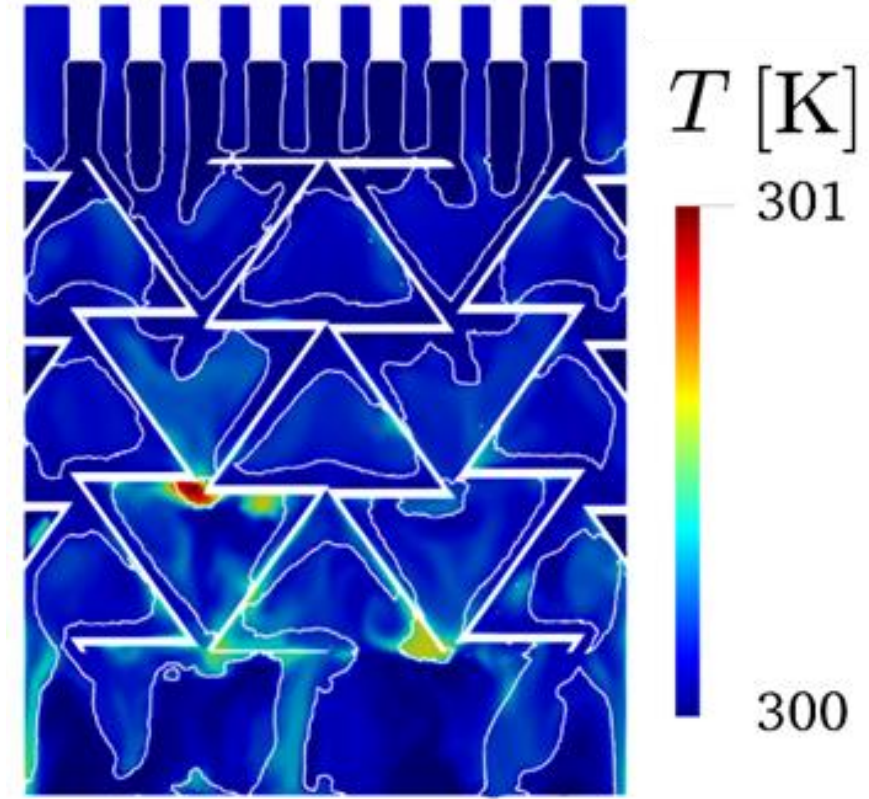
Liquid fraction ( $\alpha_l$ )

$t=1.84\text{ s}$



Mass fraction of  $\text{CO}_2$  ( $Y_{\text{CO}_2}$ )

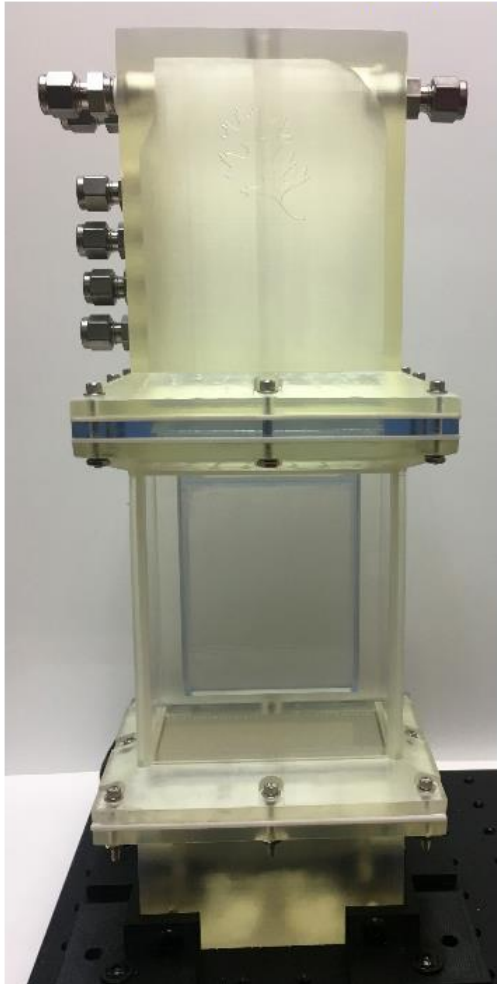
$t=1.84\text{ s}$



Temperature ( $T$ )

# 2-inch columns for higher-fidelity validation data

Fluid-Structure Interface (FSI) setup    Packing Prototype Performance (PPP) setup



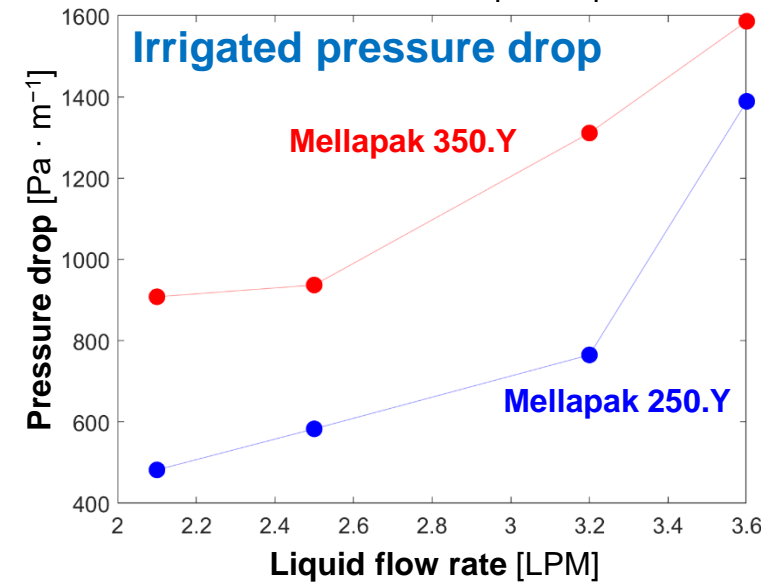
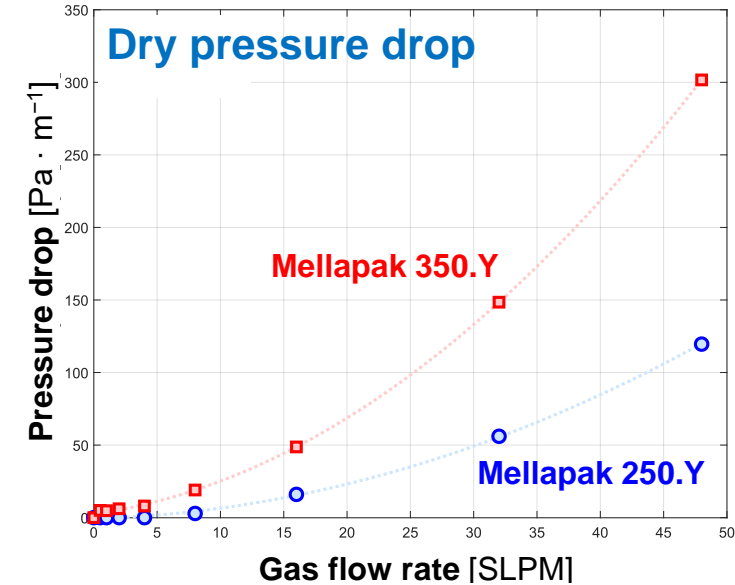
To measure solvent flow behavior on column material of construction



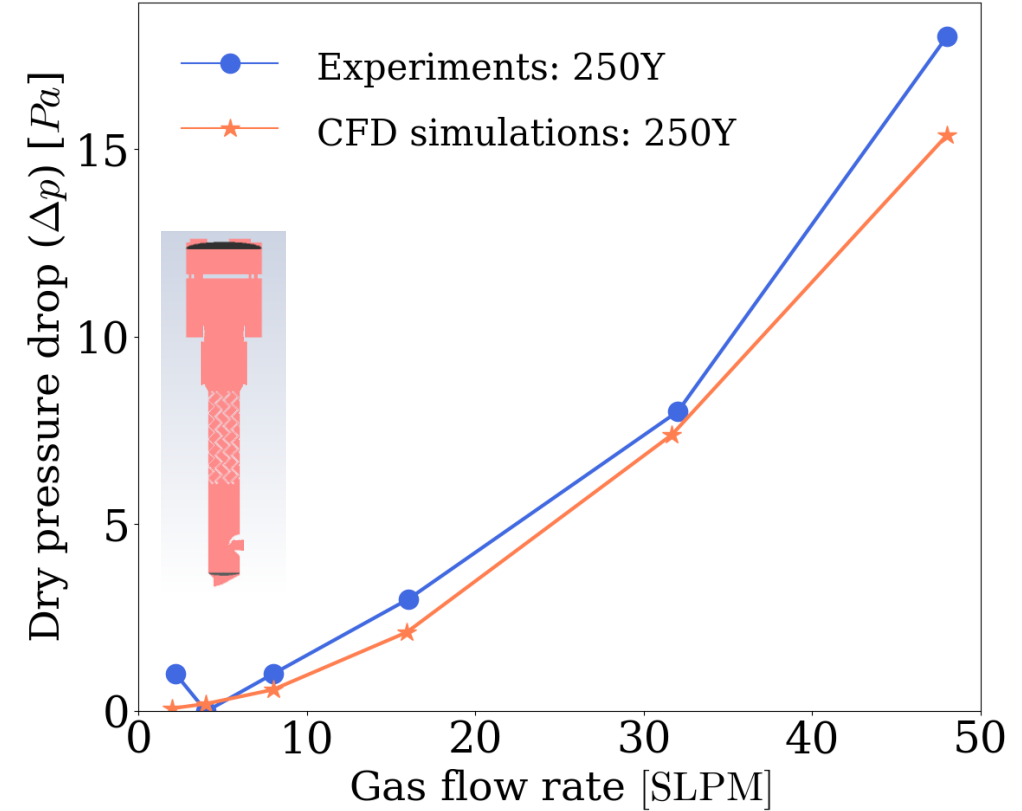
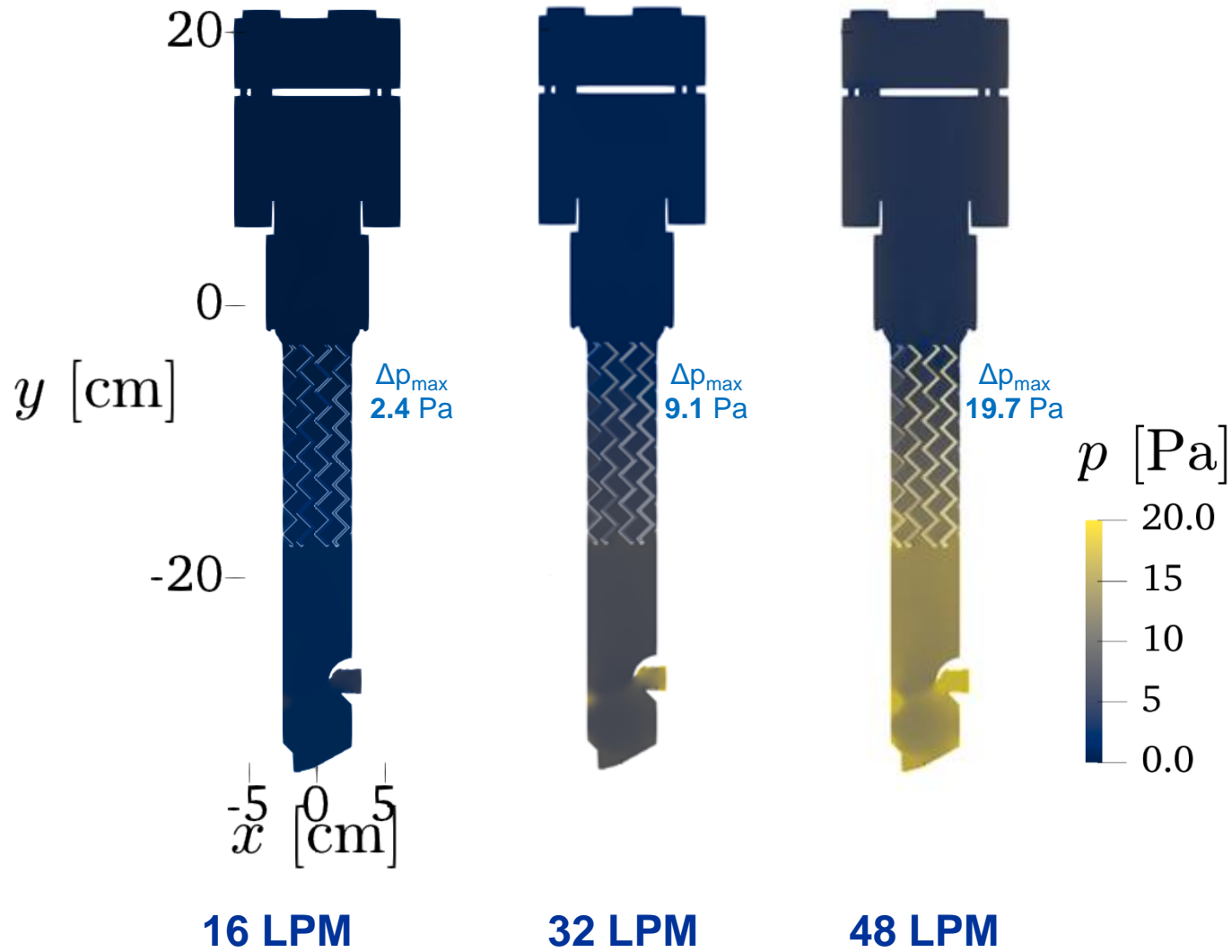
To characterize specific geometry performance for validation data



◀ 3D printed column, with full-size packing structures, for rapid prototyping & testing



# Dry pressure distribution for the 2-inch column



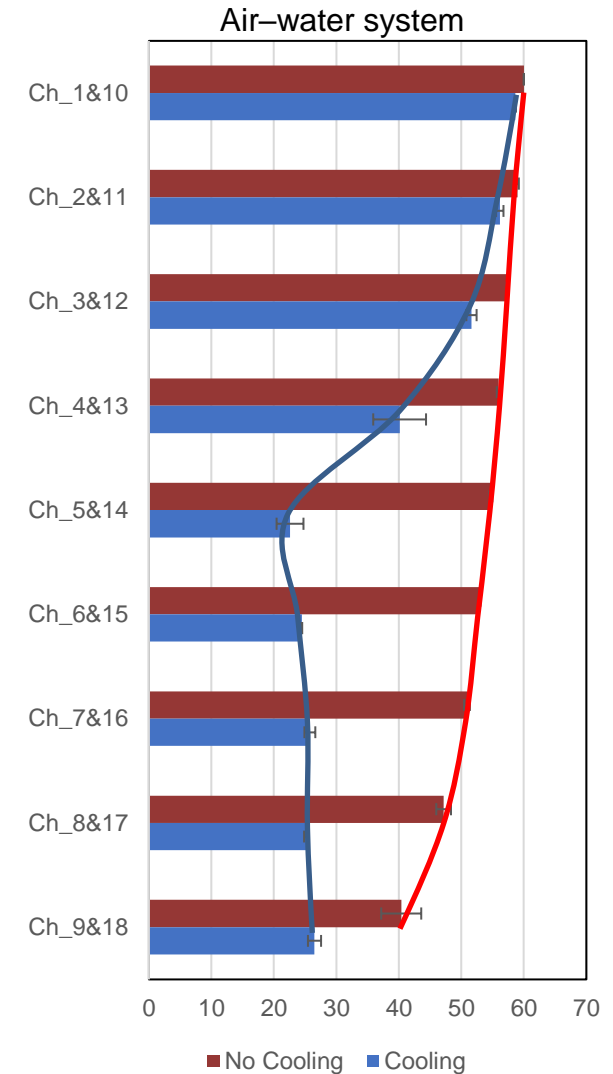
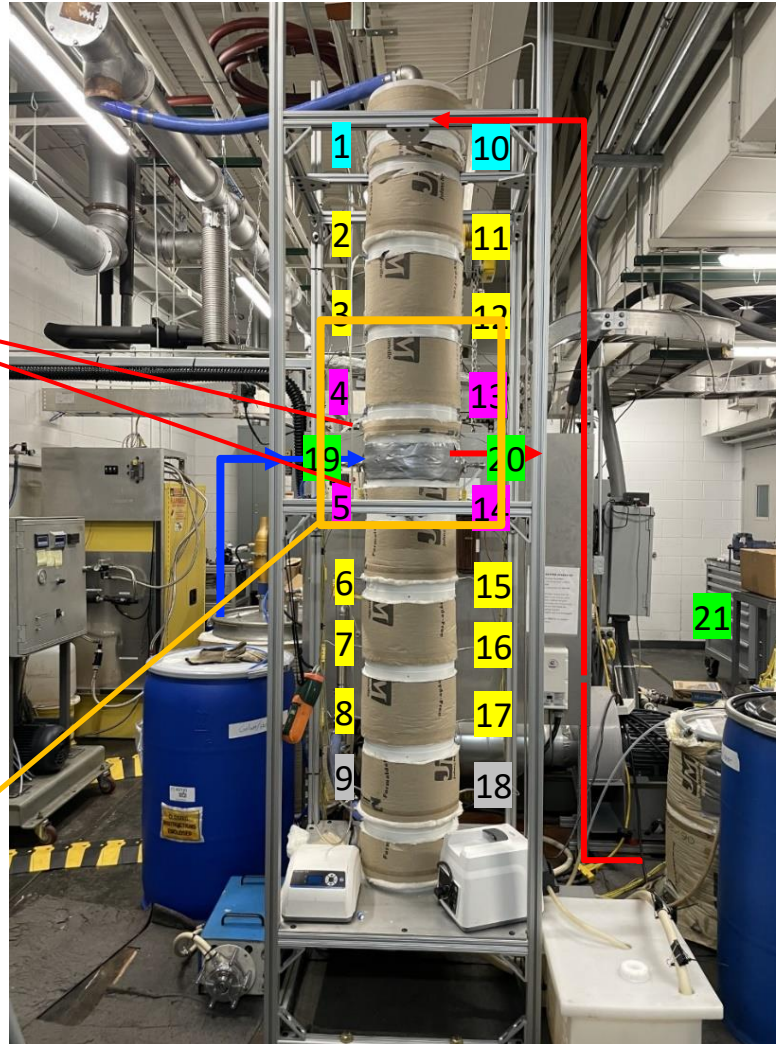
*“Measure what you model; model what you measure.”*

# 8-inch column for model scaling testing



Two 3D-printed intensified device sections

Current focus is on enhanced instrumentation to provide high-fidelity boundary conditions and performance data for simulations



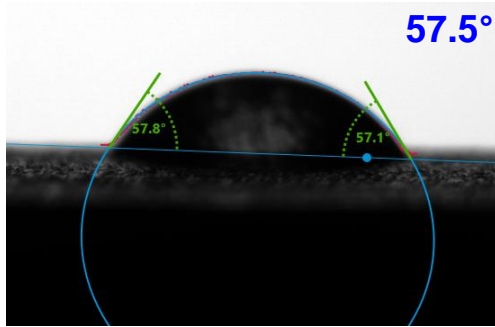
Temperature profiles  
[AMO-funded]

# Solvent properties measurements improve simulation accuracy

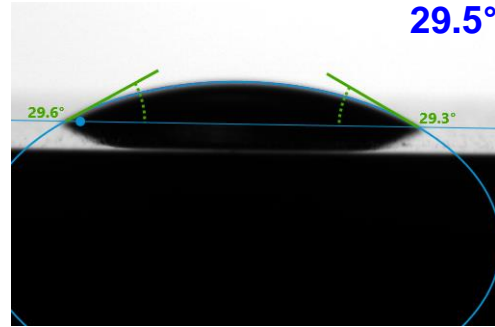
We have a wide range of capabilities to measure specific **solvent interaction** with our specific packing **materials of construction** to improve simulation accuracy.

## Static Contact Angles

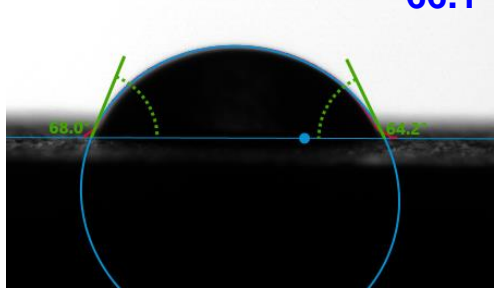
MEA30 on 3D-AI



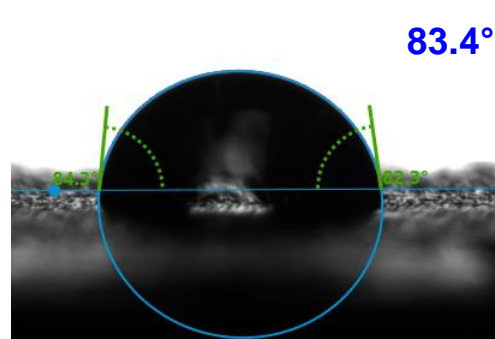
MEA30 on 410 SS



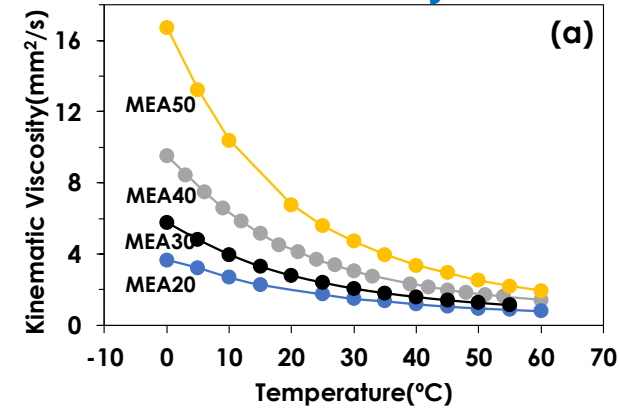
CO<sub>2</sub>-aged MEA30 on 3D-AI



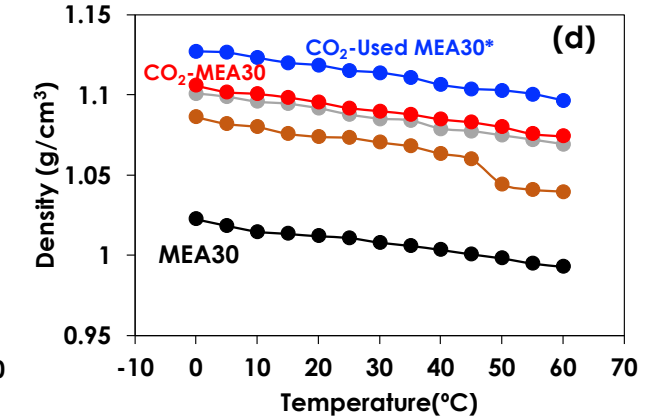
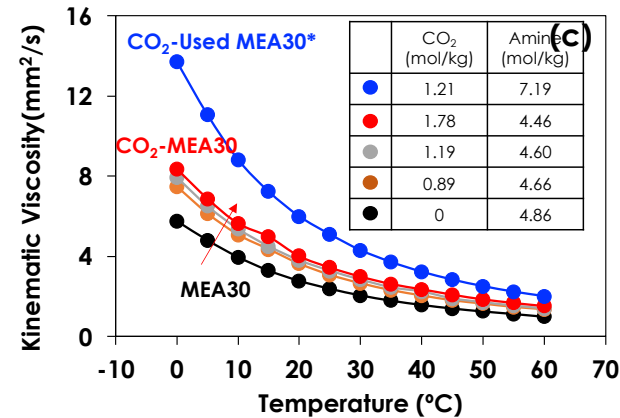
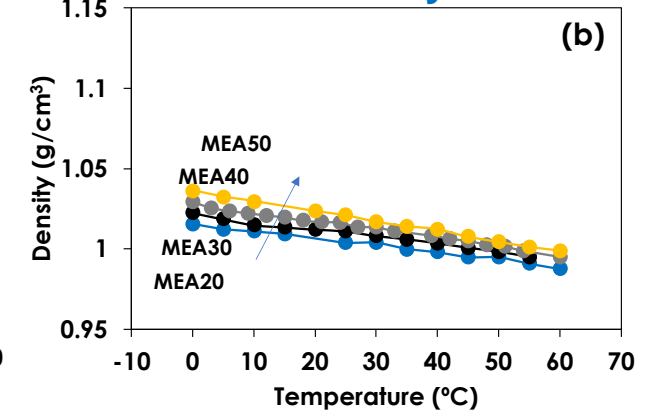
Water on 3D-AI



## Viscosity



## Density



# Scaling sequence and capabilities

12-inch column, 1 T<sub>CO2</sub>/day

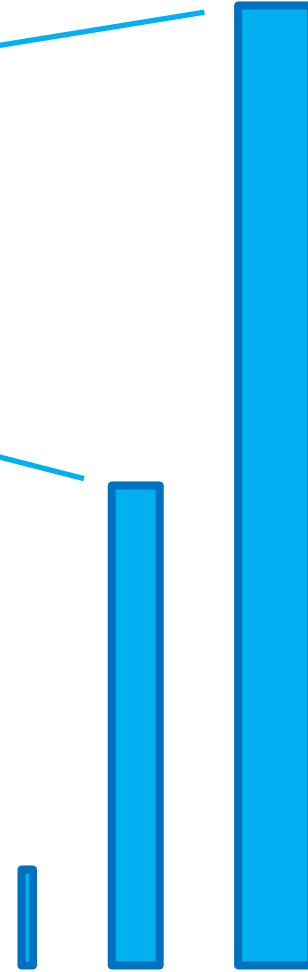
Candidate geometry validation & CFD/process/ML model support

8-inch column, 0.1 T<sub>CO2</sub>/day

Candidate geometry validation & CFD/ML model support

2-inch column

CFD film-modeling validation and candidate geometry testing



▲ APPROXIMATELY TO SCALE

Column A  
8-in (20 cm) diameter  
2 m tall



Commercial packing

Intensified devices

Packing Prototype Performance Column  
2-in (5 cm) diameter  
0.7 m tall



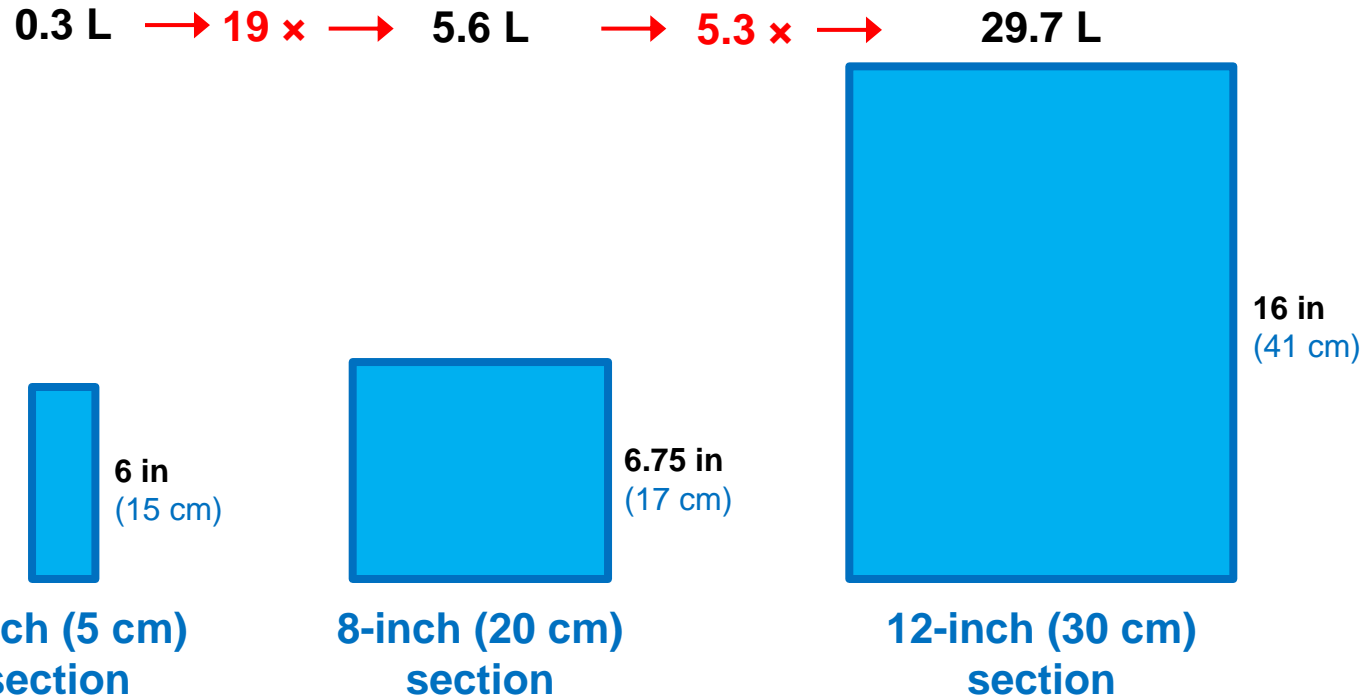
Column B  
12-in (30 cm) diameter  
4 m tall



▲ PHOTOS NOT TO SCALE

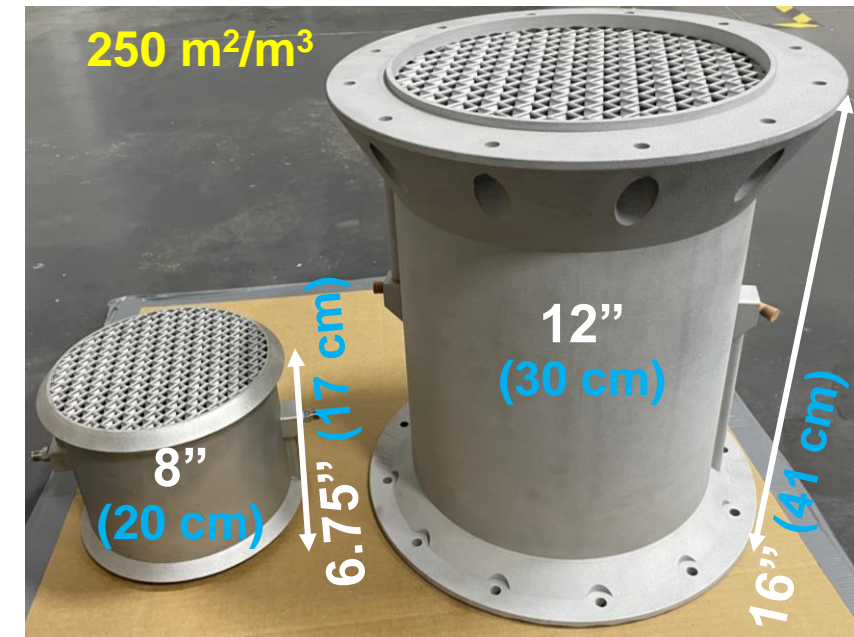
# Scale-up sequence – intensified-device sections

- ▶ Objective: provide high-fidelity performance data sufficient to support process models, CFD, ML-ROM surrogates



▲  
APPROXIMATELY  
TO SCALE

## 3D-printed intensified devices



# Highlights

## Unique capabilities

- Special treatment of solvent layer incorporating IDAES framework for MEA chemistry, heat transfer, and transport properties for direct CFD simulation of solvent wetting, thermodynamics, and CO<sub>2</sub> absorption
- Additive manufacturing for prototype packing fabrication and testing for process intensification
- Experimentation at multiple scales for scale-up validation

**Because of the complexities of the solvent–packing interaction, scaling up of an optimized process is facilitated by the application of machine learning.**



# MACHINE LEARNING FOR ACCELERATING CFD AND DESIGN OPTIMIZATION

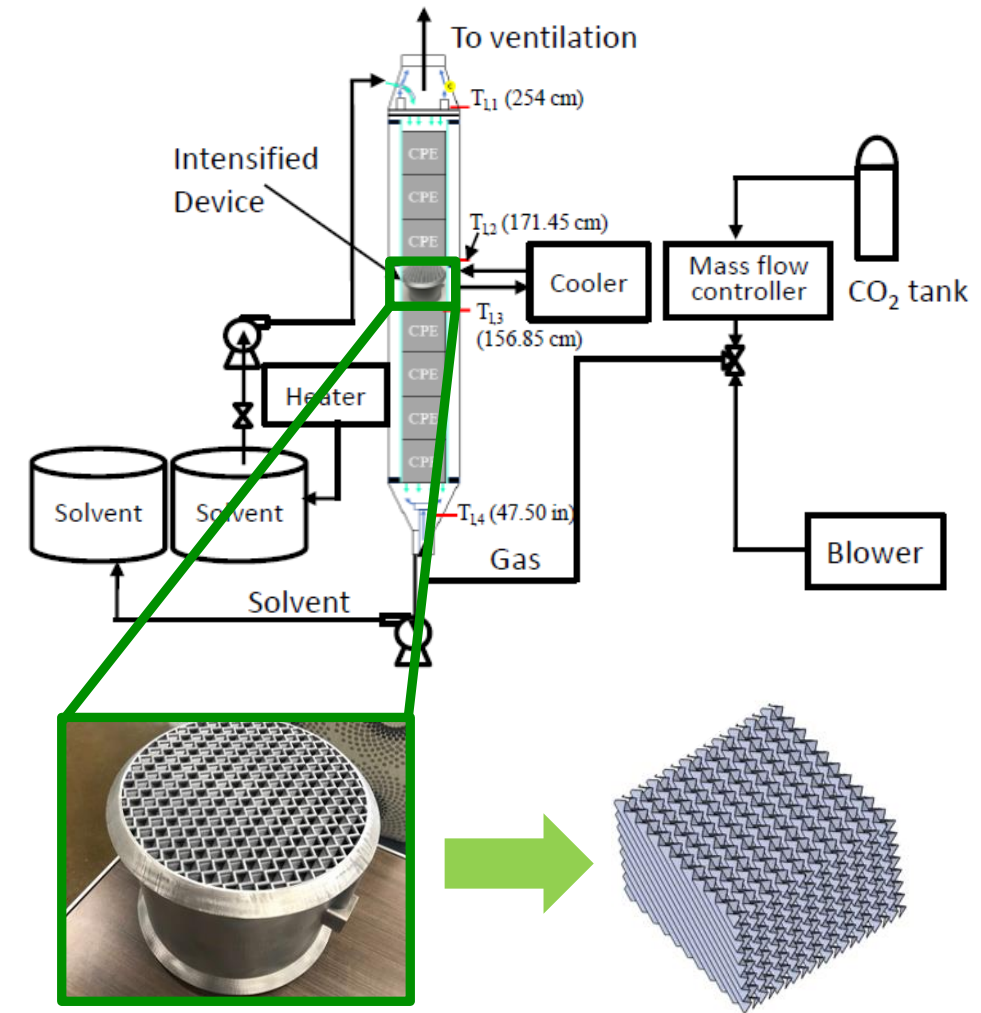
# Machine learning for CFD

CFD is critical for the fundamental understanding, to inform process and system level modeling.

- **Need local information on transport phenomena** to understand driving forces
- **Can be incorporated into design optimization** to optimize the device

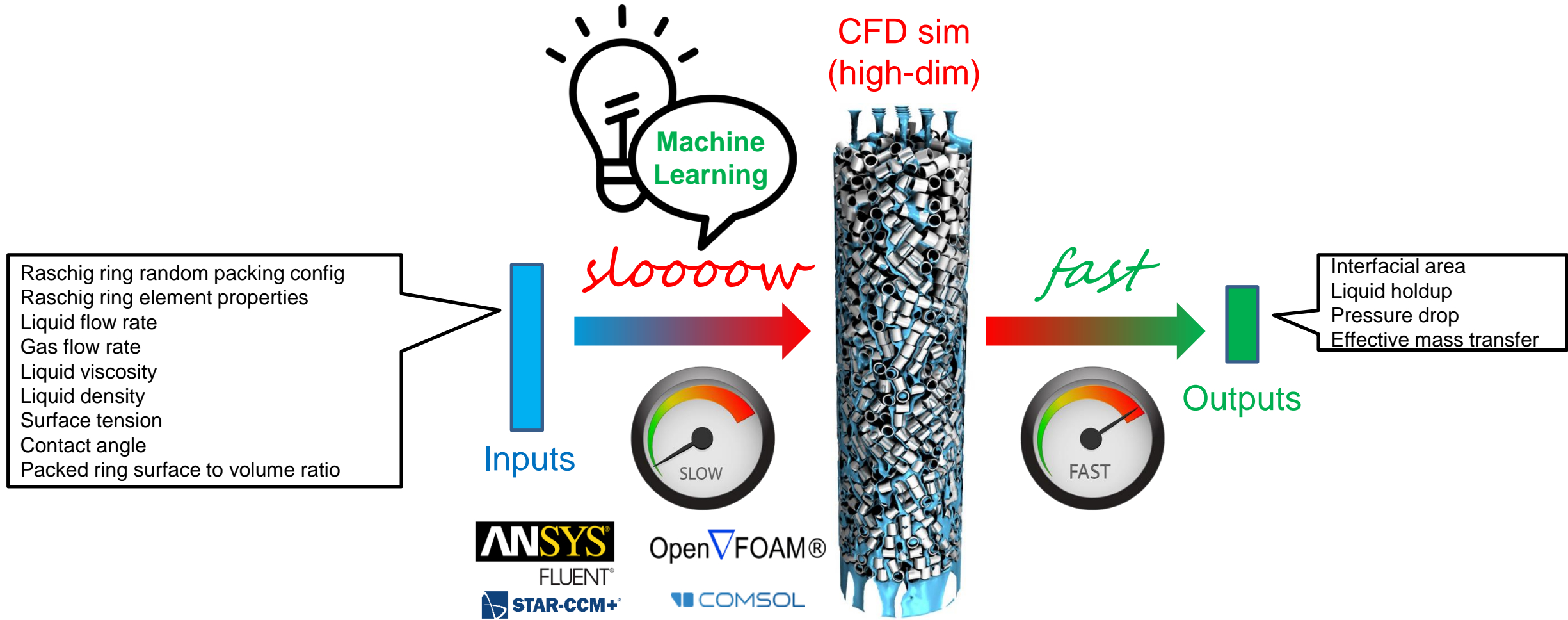
Simulation time is a bottleneck that impedes high-level modeling.

Machine learning surrogates, such as **Deep Fluids (DF)** and **MeshGraphNets (MGN)**, can reduce the computational burden of time-consuming simulations.

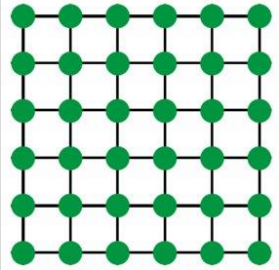
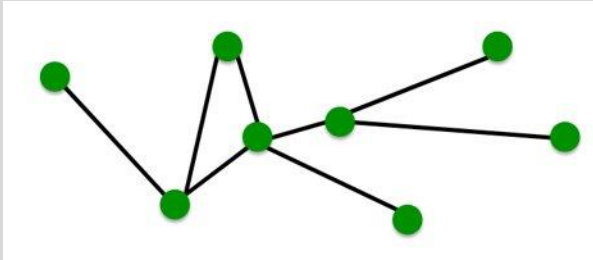
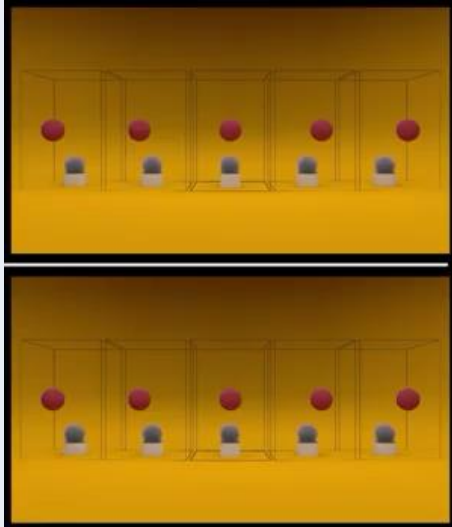
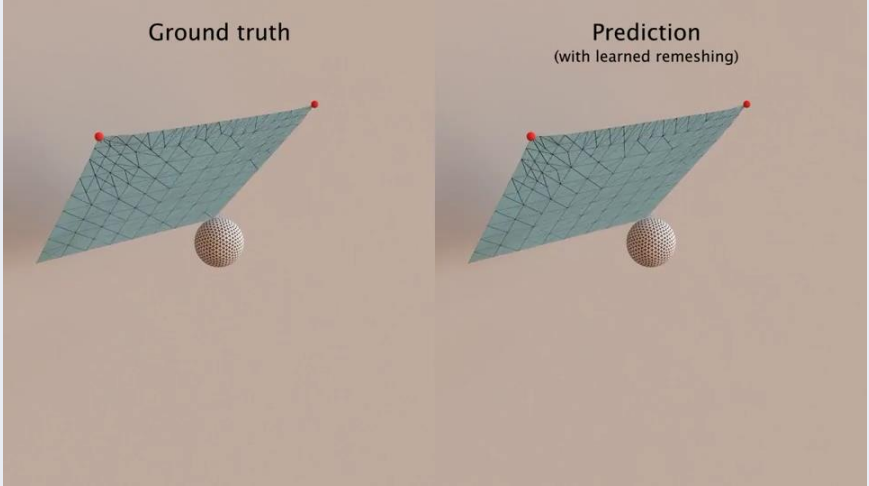


# Fast Surrogates for CFD Simulation Model

- Machine learning surrogates to speed up computational fluid dynamics (CFD) simulations



# CCSI<sup>2</sup> ML for CFD

	DeeperFluids (DF)	MeshGraphNets+ (MGN)
Representation	 <p>Treats data as an <b>image</b> For structured grids</p>	 <p>Treats data as a <b>graph</b> For unstructured meshes</p>
Prior work	<p><b>Deep Fluids</b> [Kim et al., Eurographics 2019]</p> 	<p><b>MeshGraphNets</b> [Pfaff et al., ICLR 2021]</p> 

# DeepFluids / DeeperFluids (DF)

During prediction, the ML model uses the first frame to predict subsequent frames.

$t = 0$   $T = 500$

## Input

A single frame

## Encoding

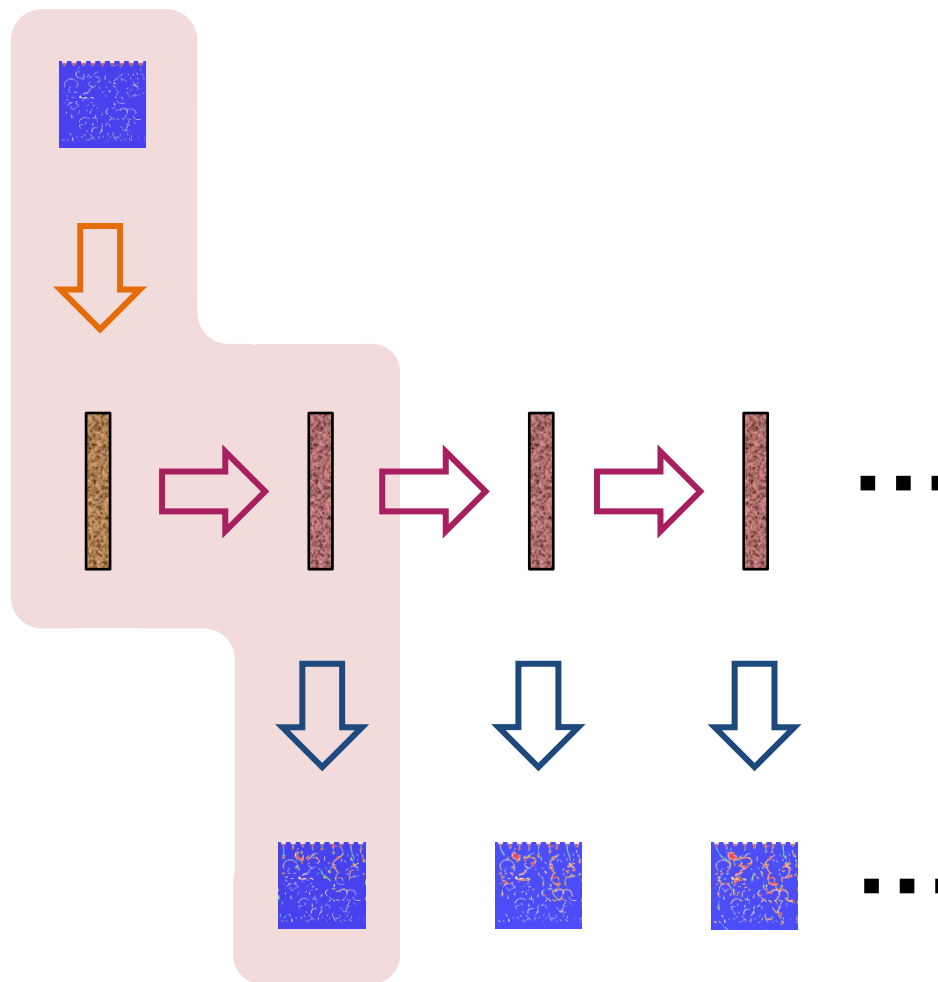
The frame is mapped to a feature vector (embedding) in latent space.

## Forward Pass

Predict the next embedding.

## Decoding

Embeddings are mapped back to the physical space.



<https://github.com/CCSI-Toolset/DeeperFluids>

arXiv:2112.11656

# MeshGraphNets (MGN)

## Input

A *mesh* within the original frame

## Encoding $E$

Each node and edge has its own embedding.

## Message Passing $M$

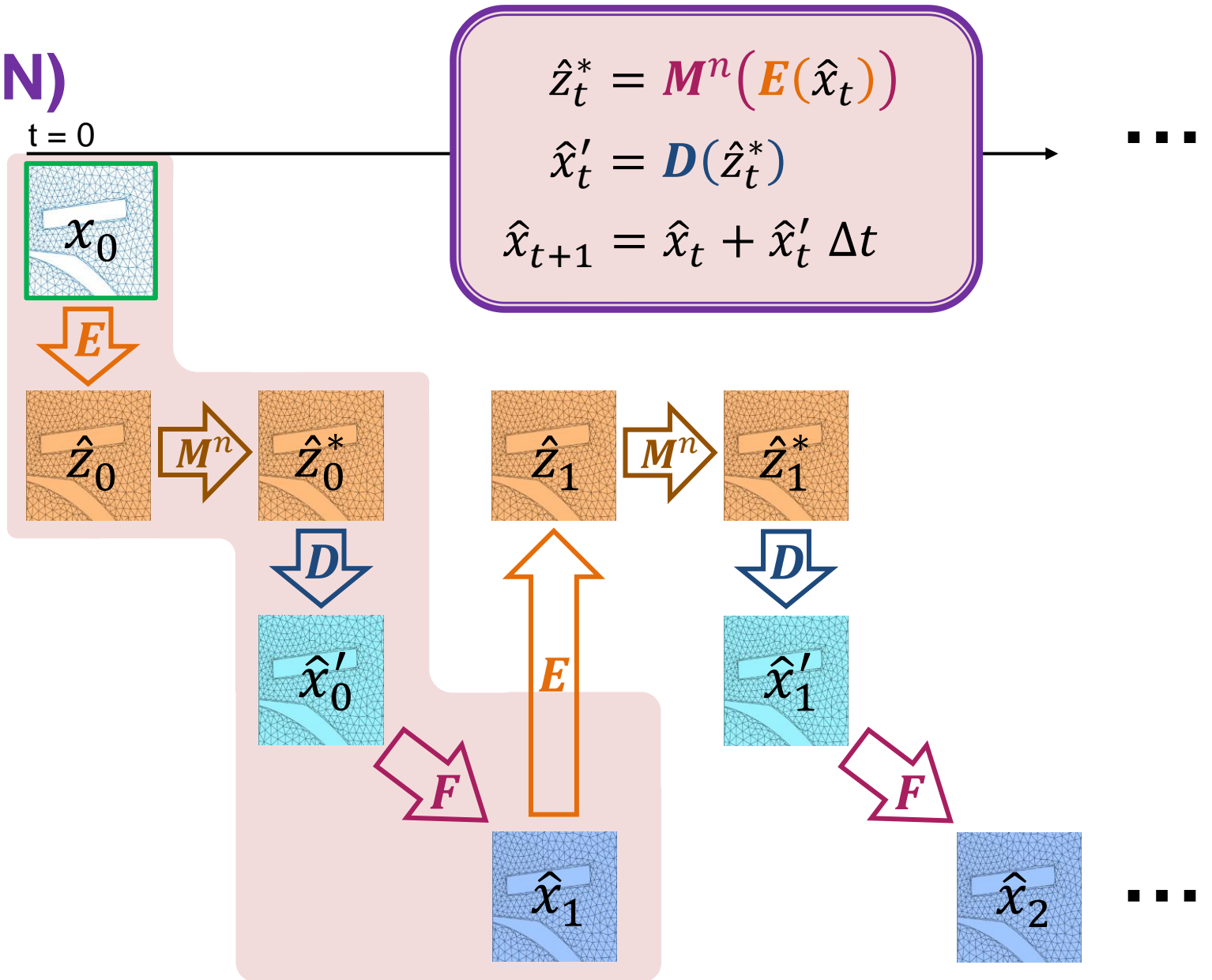
Neighboring edges and nodes exchange info to update embeddings.

## Decoding $D$

Updated embeddings are decoded, which represent the gradient in physical space.

## Forward pass $F$

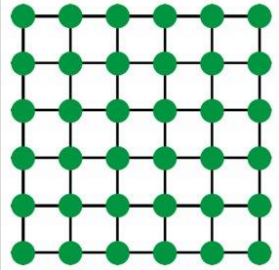
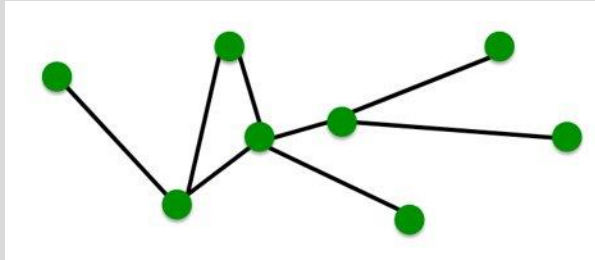
Via forward Euler



<https://github.com/CCSI-Toolset/MGN>

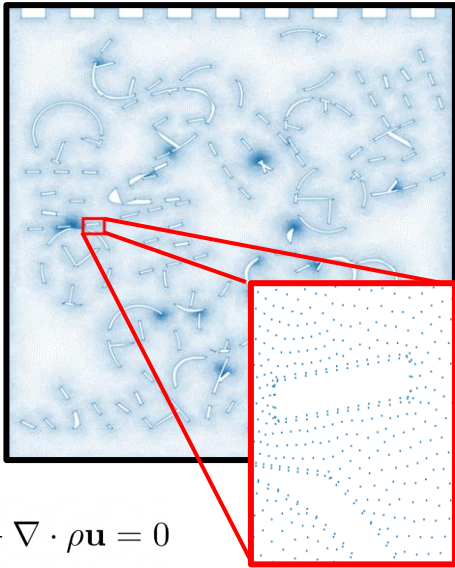
arXiv:2304.00338

# CCSI<sup>2</sup> ML for CFD

	DeeperFluids (DF)	MeshGraphNets+ (MGN)
Representation	 <p>Treats data as an <b>image</b> For structured grids</p>	 <p>Treats data as a <b>graph</b> For unstructured meshes</p>
Physics	Physics constraints are <b>difficult to incorporate</b> after compression into images and latent spaces. Dynamics is learned within <b>latent space</b> .	Node dynamics is learned through interactions with other nodes via <b>message passing</b> , making it easier to impose physics constraints. Dynamics is learned within the <b>physical space</b> .
Accuracy	<b>DF</b> will be <b>less accurate</b> than <b>MGN</b> , but should still be <b>visually acceptable</b> .	<b>MGN</b> should yield much higher accuracy, but at the expense of higher computational resources.
Transferability	<b>DF</b> <b>needs to be retrained</b> to predict for new meshes/packings.	<b>MGN</b> learns the physics independent of mesh shape and <b>can transfer well</b> to new meshes/packings.
Speed-up	<b>DF</b> <b>favors speed</b> over accuracy and transferability; up to <b>5000x faster</b> than CFD.	<b>MGN</b> <b>favors accuracy and transferability</b> over speed; currently up to <b>200x* faster</b> than CFD.

# 2D RCM data

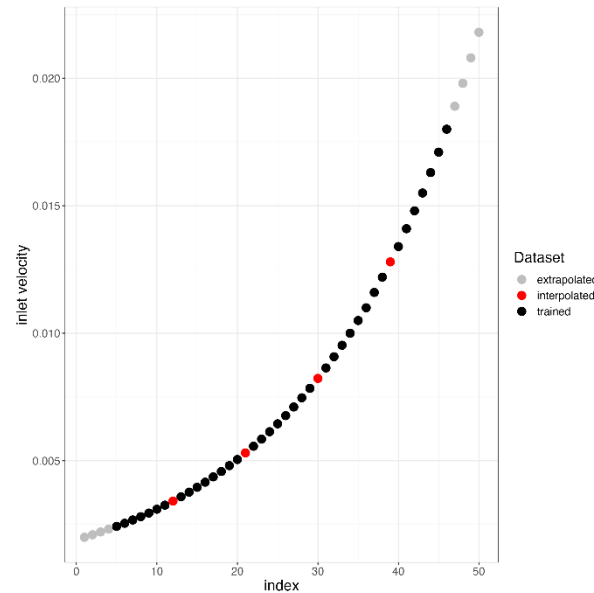
- 2 packing configurations (vertical slice of 3D packing)
  - 50 simulations (different inlet velocities)
  - 500 timesteps
    - Velocity, pressure, volume fraction measurements
  - 150K irregularly spaced points (nodes)



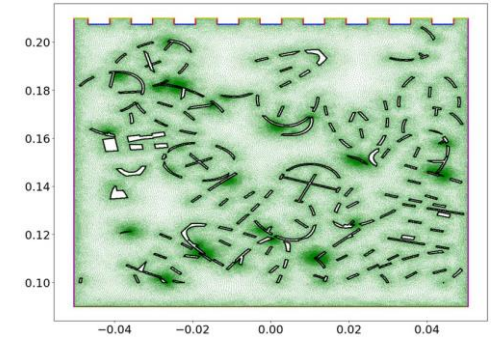
$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \rho \mathbf{u} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial(\rho \mathbf{u})}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{u} \mathbf{u}) = -\nabla p + \mu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u} + \rho \mathbf{g} + \mathbf{F}_\sigma$$

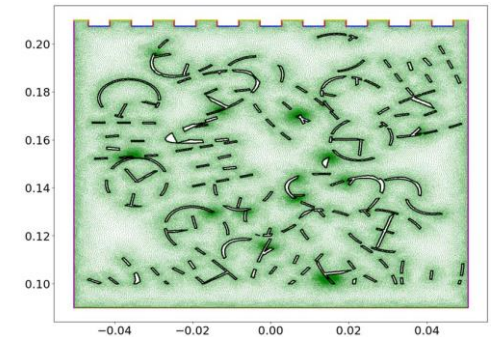
$$\frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{u} \alpha) = 0$$



Trained on:



Tested on  
(MGN only):





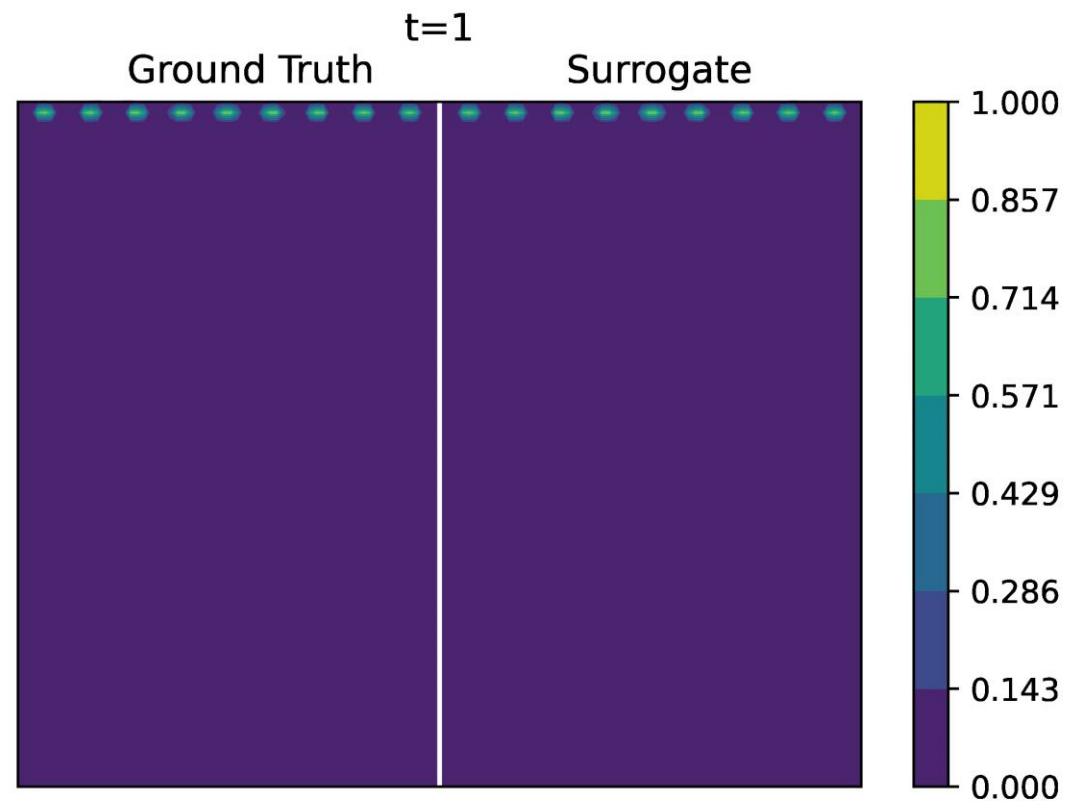
# DeeperFluids surrogates

Building on the original surrogates...

H	Error <sub>IA</sub>					
	w=20	50	150	200	300	499
1024, 512	<b>0.33</b> (0.14)	0.08 (0.00)	0.09 (0.00)	0.10 (0.00)	0.11 (0.00)	2.53 (0.26)
128, 128, 128	0.64 (0.11)	0.08 (0.01)	0.08 (0.00)	0.07 (0.00)	<b>0.06</b> (0.00)	2.25 (0.18)

We find better performance

LIN	s	Error <sub>IA</sub>		Error <sub>VF</sub>	
		L <sub>RE</sub>	RMSE	L <sub>RE</sub>	RMSE
ARC	1	0.12	0.09	0.53	0.55
	6	0.15	0.14	0.51	0.53
LSTM	1	0.12	0.06	0.56	0.54
	6	0.09	0.09	0.52	0.54
MLP	1	0.07	0.07	0.53	0.55
	6	0.08	0.12	<b>0.49</b>	0.52
Transformer	1	0.08	<b>0.04</b>	0.53	0.55
	6	0.06	0.22	0.53	0.80

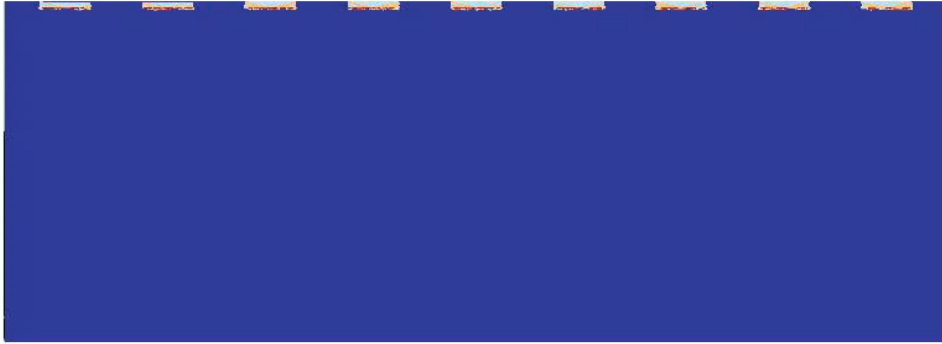


And big speedups!

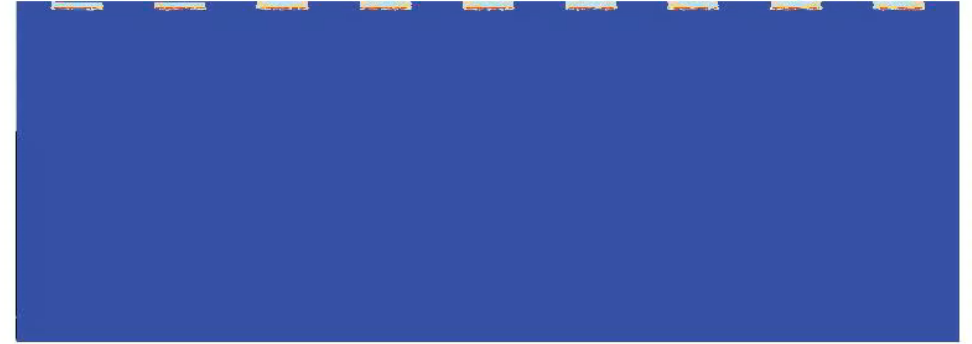
LIN	Error <sub>IA</sub>	Error <sub>VF</sub>	S <sub>w</sub>
ARC	0.07 (0.00)	0.49 (0.00)	4800
LSTM	0.08 (0.01)	0.49 (0.01)	2700
MLP	<b>0.06</b> (0.00)	<b>0.47</b> (0.00)	5400
Transformer	0.08 (0.04)	0.51 (0.00)	4300

# MeshGraphNets surrogates

Extrapolated velocities + unseen packings



Ground truth, sim 11 (extrapolated velocity, unseen packing)



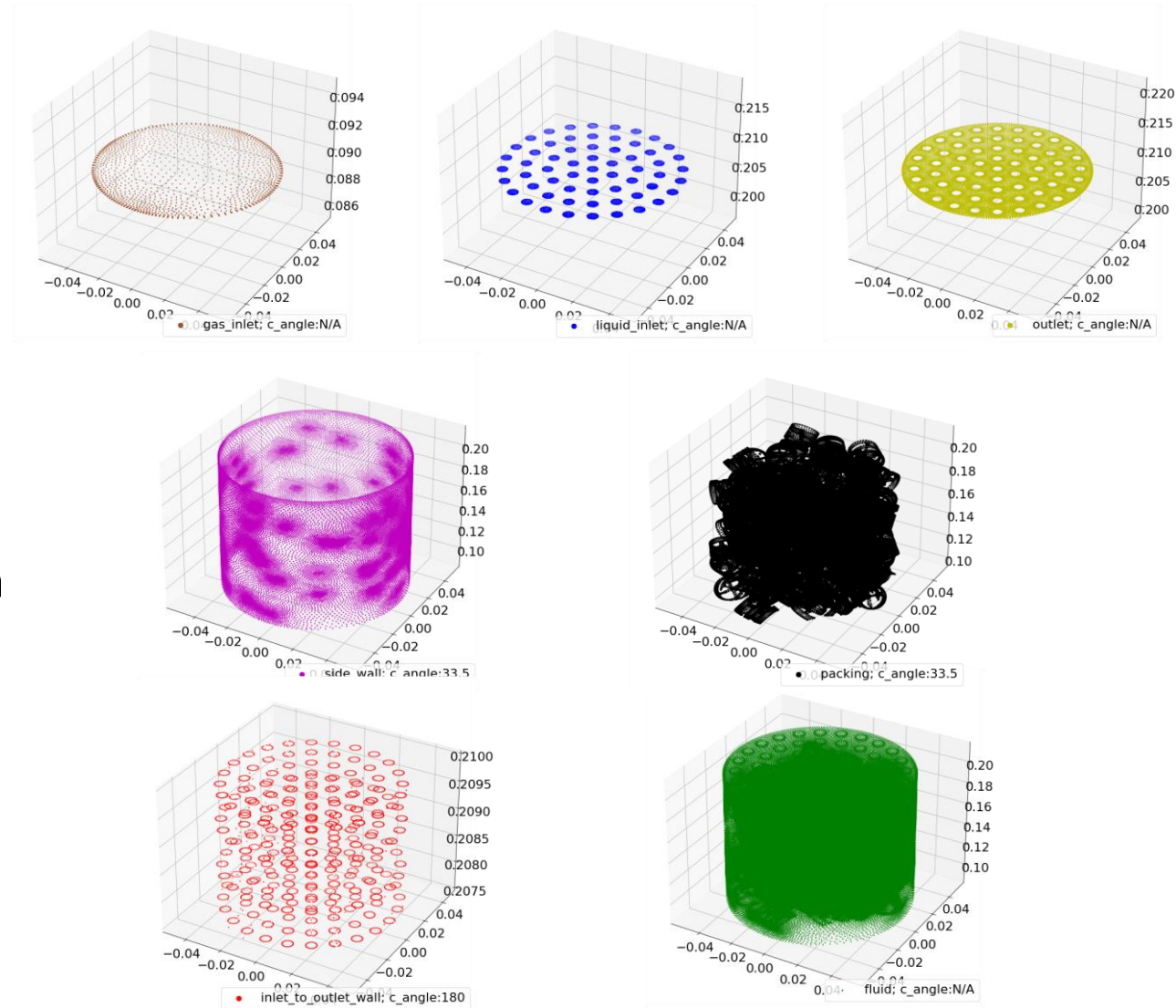
Predicted, sim 11 (extrapolated velocity, unseen packing)

Packing	Velocities	Avg. %-error in IA
Trained	Extrapolated	9.05
Unseen	Trained	5.42
Unseen	Interpolated	2.24
Unseen	Extrapolated	7.79

# 3D RCM data

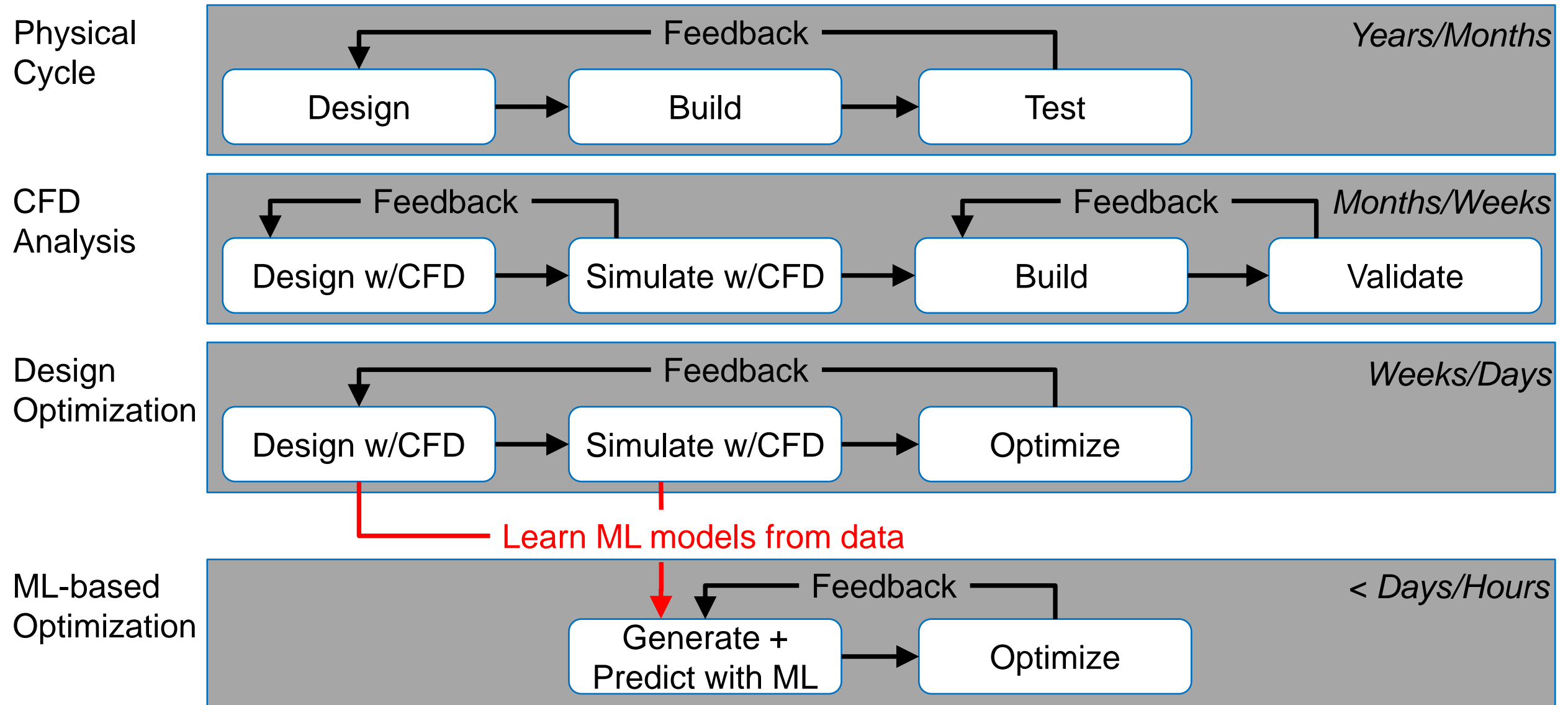
## Data:

- 50 simulations
- 500 timesteps
  - Velocity, volume fraction, pressure measurements
- **3.1 million nodes** (vs. 150K in 2D)
- With patch training, higher-order integration and other enhancements, **MGN training is now feasible**
- Current speed-up over CFD: **~150-185x faster** with one V100 GPU
  - Targeting 1000x next



<https://data.pnnl.gov/group/nodes/dataset/33472>

# ML + design optimization



# ML for design optimization, TRL progression

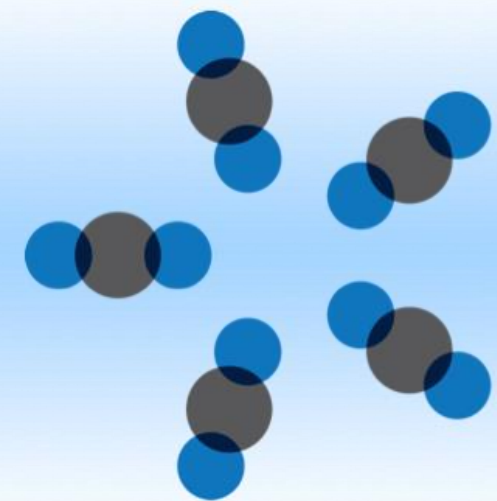
- ML can accelerate CCS modeling and validation
  - Use some CFD data to train sufficiently accurate + faster ML surrogates
  - Once trained, replace CFD dependence with ML surrogates
- Multiphysics
  - ML transferability: able to update/fine-tune already-trained models to account for additional physics
- Novel packing configurations
  - MGN able to predict well on unseen packings/meshes
- Scaling up
  - MGN able to work on arbitrary domain/mesh sizes
  - Can update/fine-tune already-trained models to account for scale-up effects

# Summary

Process-level optimization is facilitated by machine-learning models trained on detailed CFD simulations — experimentally validated at different scales — capturing the effects of design and operating conditions on the absorption performance for a given solvent.

## Components

- Sequential Design of Experiments – [see next talk by Abby Nachtsheim](#)
- Experimental prototype performance fabrication and testing
- Process modeling and optimization
- Computational Fluid Dynamics modeling
- Machine Learning



# CCSI<sup>2</sup>

Carbon Capture Simulation for Industry Impact

For more information

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**ENERGY**



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OAK RIDGE  
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TEXAS  
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# BACKUP SLIDES