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Prediction model of performance-energy trade-off for CFD codes on AMD-based cluster

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Abstract

This work explores the importance of performance-energy correlation for CFD codes, highlighting the need for sustainable and efficient use of clusters. The prime goal includes the optimisation of selecting and predicting the optimal number of computational nodes to reduce energy consumption and/or improve calculation time. In this work, the utilisation cost of the cluster, measured in core-hours, is used as a crucial factor in energy consumption and selecting the optimal number of computational nodes. The work is conducted on the cluster with AMD EPYC Milan-based CPUs and OpenFOAM application using the Urban Air Pollution model. In order to investigate performance-energy correlation on the cluster, the CVOPTS (Core VOlume Points per TimeStep) metric is introduced, which allows a direct comparison of the parallel efficiency for applications in modern HPC architectures. This metric becomes essential for evaluating and balancing performance with energy consumption to achieve cost-effective hardware configuration. The results were confirmed by numerous tests on a 40-node cluster, considering representative grid sizes. Based on the empirical results, a prediction model was derived that takes into account both the computational and communication costs of the simulation. The research reveals the impact of the AMD EPYC architecture on superspeedup, where performance increases superlinearly with the addition of more computational resources. This phenomenon enables a priori the prediction of performance-energy trade-offs (computing-faster or energy-save setups) for a specific application scenario, through the utilisation of varying quantities of computing nodes.

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Keywords: CFD performance, energy efficiency, CVOPTS metric, prediction model, HPC computation

1. Introduction

The relationship between performance and energy consump-24 tion in computational fluid dynamics (CFD) codes has become an essential domain of research investigation, especially in light of the growing emphasis on sustainable computing and efficient use of High-Performance Computing (HPC) clusters. As supercomputers evolve to tackle increasingly complex problems, their energy demands escalate exponentially, posing significant operational and environmental challenges [1].

Historically, the primary focus has been on establishing per- $_{32}$ 10 formance related metrics for these codes, which are evaluated $_{\mbox{\tiny 33}}$ 11 based on computational speed (e.g. FLOPS), accuracy, and 34 12 scalability. However, due to the growing financial and envi- $_{35}$ 13 ronmental implications of energy consumption [2], new met-14 rics that consider energy efficiency in addition to traditional 37 15 performance assessments are increasingly being considered [3]. 38 16 This development poses an additional challenge for researchers 39 17 tasked with creating algorithms that are optimised not only for 40 18 speed but also for minimising energy consumption. This in-41 19 cludes strategies such as energy-aware scheduling, load balanc- $_{42}$ 20 ing, and implementing energy-efficient numerical methods. 21

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Email addresses: lawenda@man.poznan.pl (Marcin Lawenda), lukasz.szustak@pcz.pl (Łukasz Szustak), laszlo.kornyei@math.sze.hu (László Környei) This study aims to address the research question concerning the optimal selection of resources within a homogeneous computing cluster, specifically in relation to performance and energy efficiency for Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) applications, which directly influences the associated operational costs. To evaluate and compare application performance for different hardware configurations, the CVOPTS metric was proposed, which takes into account different mesh sizes and numbers of computing nodes. This enabled the creation of an applied predictive model that enables the selection of the best hardware configuration taking into account two criteria: performance and resource consumption (energy). Numerous validation tests have been performed to confirm the effectiveness of this approach, significantly facilitating the process of scheduling and allocating resources.

The structure of the paper is delineated as follows. Section 2 provides a summary of related works across three domains: resource allocation, management of partial differential equation (PDE) solvers, and the establishment of metrics. Section 3 presents the problem formulation from a mathematical perspective. The subsequent chapter (4) details the application utilised for evaluation and the hardware employed for computations. Section 5 focuses on the motivations that inspired the authors in formulating the assumptions for this research. Chapter 6 discusses the evaluation of the Urban Air Pollution (UAP) application's performance and the definition of the CVOPTS met-

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ric. Chapter 7 introduces the prediction model concerning ap-101
 plication execution and cluster utilisation costs. The final chap-102
 ter offers an evaluation of the prediction model, presenting an103
 analysis aimed at finding a balance between high efficiency and104
 the minimisation of resources (energy) required to execute the105
 computational task. 106

54 2. Related work

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Many scientific publications address the topic of computa-¹¹⁰
 tional efficiency of the HPC systems in the context of low en-¹¹¹
 ergy consumption [4, 5, 6]. The scope of topics covered is very¹¹²
 broad, covering energy-aware scheduling in the context of re-¹¹³
 source allocation, data partitioning, and workflow scheduling¹¹⁴
 [7, 8, 9].

Performance and energy efficiency are analyzed together¹¹⁶ 61 presenting a great convergence. In the work [10], the authors¹¹⁷ 62 highlight that both performance and energy efficiency are closely¹⁸ 63 aligned with Moore's Law. Over the past sixty years, the elec-119 64 trical efficiency of computation has approximately doubled ev-120 65 ery eighteen months, a rate of change that is comparable to¹²¹ 66 the advancements seen in computer performance and electri-122 67 cal efficiency during the microprocessor era. Their findings indicate that since 1946, the energy efficiency of computation¹²³ 69 has doubled roughly every 1.57 years. This rate of improve-124 70 ment is slightly slower than that of personal computers (PCs),125 71 which saw a doubling of efficiency every 1.52 years from 1975₁₂₆ 72 to 2009. In the same period, the performance of PCs doubled₁₂₇ 73 approximately every 1.5 years. 128 74

In the context of this study, related works can be analysed¹²⁹
from the following perspectives: resource allocation, CFD ap-¹³⁰
plications and metrics that are defined and used for the purpose¹³¹
of comparing the achieved results. ¹³²

79 2.1. Resource allocation

In the case of the work [11], which is a comparative study¹³⁵ of task scheduling in large parallel systems, the authors anal-136 81 yse the possibilities of minimising waiting time, response time,137 82 and energy consumption, and maximizing the overall system¹³⁸ 83 utilization. The study based on empirical results (22385 tasks)¹³⁹ 84 compares thirteen task scheduling policies to analyse their be-140 85 haviour. The set of task scheduling policies includes priority-141 86 based, first-fit, backfilling, and window-based policies, high-142 87 lighting the strengths and weaknesses of different task schedul-143 88 ing policies and helping to choose the most appropriate one¹⁴⁴ 89 for a given computing scenario. The effectiveness of most job¹⁴⁵ 90 scheduling policies is largely influenced by various workload¹⁴⁶ 91 characteristics, particularly the duration of job execution. The¹⁴⁷ 92 significant degree of imbalance necessitates a deliberate selec-148 93 tion of scheduling methods; for instance, narrow jobs are ide-149 94 ally suited for the combination of MinET (minimum estimated¹⁵⁰ 95 execution time) and SJF (smallest job first) with the FF (first¹⁵¹ 96 fit) technique, whereas they are ill-suited for the MaxET (max-152 97 imum estimated execution time) policy. Conversely, wide jobs¹⁵³ 98 may be executed on machines with lower performance and powers4 99 capabilities, allowing LJF-PE (largest job first - power efficiency¹⁵⁵ 100

to optimise energy consumption effectively. In parallel computing environments, resource management should not rely on a singular policy but should instead adopt dynamic and adaptive scheduling strategies.

The paper [12] elaborates an extensive overview of the architectural, software, and algorithmic challenges associated with energy-efficient workflow scheduling across single-core, multicore, and parallel architectures. Additionally, it presents a structured classification of algorithms found in the literature, categorised according to overarching optimisation goals and the specific characteristics of applications. The authors emphasise the importance of support resources that are heterogeneous and dynamic, as dynamic changes in available resources can significantly affect energy and time requirements and should be carefully considered in scheduling. Similar to the previous paper, here too it is suggested to enhance grids and clouds with fast, dynamic, scalable, and adaptive management mechanisms instead of static and inflexible manual solutions. This can be done by developing new algorithms that leverage dependencies between different tasks to allocate slack. Furthermore, scheduling should take into account the adaptability of priorities as execution progresses and user-defined goals.

2.2. Management of partial differential equation solvers

The study [13] introduces an elastic computational approach that dynamically modifies the resources dedicated to the simulation during execution. To determine the appropriate quantity of resources necessary for executing a computational task, the efficiency of communication is considered. Based on various analytical evaluations, resources are subsequently increased or decreased to align with this criterion, ultimately ensuring an effective simulation process. The communication performance of CFD simulations is evaluated using real execution time measurements using the TALP library [14]. The number of cores needed to meet this goal is estimated on the fly, taking into account the performance target. If the number of cores for simulation needs to be expanded or reduced, the workflow manager (PyCOMPS [15]) interacts with SLURM, and once cores are allocated, the CFD code is restarted, and the simulation continues.

The authors of the paper [16] examine the features of CFD applications and develop a modelling approach that allows the decomposition of these applications into multiple subtasks represented by Directed Acyclic Graphs (DAG). They subsequently introduce a hierarchical framework for resource organisation within a computational grid environment. In conclusion, they address the scheduling strategy pertinent to the outlined scenario and evaluate the proposed algorithm through simulation experiments. The authors assert that the computational grid is appropriate for CFD applications by segmenting it into numerous sub-problems that can be addressed through distributed computations with minimal communication frequency. It is posited that several sub-problems derived from a single largescale CFD application can be executed in parallel as sub-tasks within the grid framework, while also taking into account the interdependencies among these sub-tasks.

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156 2.3. Metrics

A significant challenge lies in the development of clear met-211 157 rics that will definitively address which HPC system provides²¹² 158 superior capabilities while maintaining reasonable operational²¹³ 159 costs. They focus on energy-aware techniques, tools, and archi-214 160 tectures (clusters, grids, and clouds) used in high-performance²¹⁵ 161 computing. Namely, the paper [17] widely describes the op-216 162 timisation metrics used, including energy measurement tools,217 163 and benchmarking, forecasting, and simulation methods for the218 164 described problem. The authors note that in terms of metrics de-219 165 signed for optimisation, numerous studies focus on the goal of²²⁰ 166 reducing energy consumption while maintaining minimal im-221 167 pact on performance. This is typically achieved by identifying²²² 168 the specific application phases that present the greatest potential²²³ 169 for energy savings. Furthermore, there is a dearth of studies that²²⁴ 170 consider network and memory components in this context. The225 171 authors highlight a significant gap in the literature regarding au-226 172 tomatic profiling and tuning for parallel applications running on²²⁷ 173 hybrid systems that include both CPUs and GPUs. 228 174

The paper [18] introduces a vector-valued metric aimed at²²⁹ 175 enhancing efficiency in supercomputing. The metric is com-230 176 posed of two scalar components: one representing performance²³¹ 177 and the other denoting energy efficiency, emphasising the no-232 178 tion that energy is equally significant as performance. Notably,233 179 the focus of the paper lies more on the dimensionality of the234 180 metric space, advocating for the use of a vector metric, rather²³⁵ 181 than on the specific measurement protocols for obtaining each236 182 scalar value. An analysis conducts of the historical and cur-237 183 rent state of the supercomputing industry in relation to efficient^{23t} 184 239 supercomputing practices. 185 240

3. Problem formulation

In order to better understand the complexity of the problem,
 this chapter presents a formal definition of the optimization task
 of resource allocation on a computing cluster.

The symbols used in the definition of the problem are summarized in the Table 1.

For the sake of clarity in notation, we consider the processors to be arranged in a star configuration of set \mathcal{P} of processing elements i = 1, ..., m. The processing elements are arranged in ζ units on Υ nodes. To choose the best configuration both in terms of performance and energy, we consider various sets $\mathcal{P}_j \subseteq \mathcal{P}', j = 1, ..., \kappa$ of processing units. Each set \mathcal{P}_j is composed of m_j processing units (e.g. processor cores).

Based on the diversity of the computational environment, 199 three distinct types of star configurations can be identified, as 200 referenced in [19], [20] and [21]: Unrelated processors, Uni-201 form processors, and Identical processors. Presented analysis $_{\rm 249}$ 202 will focus on the last category, presuming that all processors 203 and tasks share identical communication speeds and computa-204 tional speeds. Therefore, for all $\forall_{\mathcal{P}_{ij}\in\mathcal{P}}A_{ij} = A, C_{ij} = C$. Iden-²⁵¹ 205 tical processors can be perceived as a specific case of homoge-²⁵² 206 neous processors, exemplified by the execution of the same par-253 207 allel program in a uniform environment with varying input data $^{^{254}}$ 208 sets. To simplify the model, we ignore the issues related to the²⁵⁵ 209

initial time of loading the code and data and sending them to the individual processing units. However, we do take into account the communication time between processors during processing. The sequence of activating the processors is arbitrary. We assume that all resources (processors) from the pool are available and there are no constraints related to scheduling other tasks. Due to the equal division of work (α_j) and the efficiency of the processors, all tasks are completed at the same time $(t_{ij} = t_j)$. It is also assumed that the initial time of sending data to the processors and returning the results (saving them to disk) is negligible. Tasks are distributed in one cycle (single load).

The size of each chunk α_j is the same for all processors in \mathcal{P}_j . For identical processors, the computation time for α_j load units is expressed as $\alpha_j A$. The communication time between processing units under processing is considered and is represented as $\sigma_i C$.

Utilising processors in \mathcal{P}_j incurs a cost (e.g. energy) of $f_j + \alpha_j l_j$ for each of them. The final restriction considers the memory capacity that should be restricted to *B* load units, the load block must not exceed this limit, thus $\alpha_j \leq B$.

The problem entails a bi-criteria optimization scenario. The two criteria under consideration are the schedule length, denoted by C_{max} , and the cost associated with processor usage (e.g. energy), represented by $G = \sum_{j \in \mathcal{P}'} (f_j + \alpha_j l_j)$, where \mathcal{P}' refers to the set of processors in use. This bi-criteria optimisation problem can be simplified into two more basic problems: (i) the minimisation of C_{max} subject to the constraint that $G \leq \overline{G}$, and (ii) the minimisation of G subject to the condition that $C_{max} \leq \overline{C_{max}}$. Here, \overline{G} signifies a predetermined upper limit on the cost associated with the schedule, while $\overline{C_{max}}$ signifies a specified upper limit on the schedule length. Both simplified problems can be addressed in polynomial time through linear programming techniques, assuming that the set \mathcal{P}' of employed processors and their activation sequence are allowed to vary without restriction.

The optimality criterion is schedule length (makespan) $C_{max} = max\{c_j\}$, where c_j is task *j* completion time.

minimise C_{max} and \overline{G} , subject to:

$$\sigma_j C + \alpha_j A \leq C_{max} \qquad j = 1, \dots, \kappa \tag{1}$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{m_j} (f_j + \alpha_j l_j) \leq \overline{G} \qquad j = 1, \dots, \kappa$$
(2)

$$0 \le \alpha_j \le B \qquad j = 1, \dots, \kappa \tag{3}$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{j} \alpha_j = V \qquad \forall j \in \kappa \tag{4}$$

$$\zeta \times \Upsilon_j = |m_j| \qquad j = 1, \dots, \kappa \tag{5}$$

In the above formulation constraint (1) guarantees that computations and communications are performed in an admissible interval for all \mathcal{P}_j sets. By inequality (2) total cost of the schedule does not exceed the limit \overline{G} . Given that the cost remains constant for each processing unit $\subset \mathcal{P}$, it suffices to aggregate their values across all processing units $(1, \ldots, m_j)$. The constraint (3) guarantees that the capacities of the memory buffers will not be surpassed within the designated number of processing units (\mathcal{P}_j) and the resultant size of task allocation (α_j) . By

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Symbol	Description					
A	processing rate (reciprocal of speed) of P					
α_j	fraction of load (mesh) assigned processing unit in set of P_j					
В	memory size of processor P					
С	communication rate (reciprocal of bandwidth) of the link from P_i to cooperating processors					
c_i	schedule length for P_i processors					
$C_{max} = \max\{c_j\}$	schedule length					
$G = \sum_{j \in \mathcal{P}'} (f_j + \alpha_j l_j)$	total cost of the schedule on processors in set \mathcal{P}_j					
f_j	fixed part of the cost of using processors in \mathcal{P}_j					
\overline{G}	an upper limit on cost G					
К	number of sets of processing units					
l_j	coefficient of the linear part of the cost of using \mathcal{P}_j					
m_j	number of processing units in set of \mathcal{P}_j					
${\cal P}$	set of available processing units					
\mathcal{P}'	set of processing units participating in any computation					
${\mathcal P}_j$	set of processing units participating in the computation <i>j</i>					
σ_{j}	communication load between any of the processors in set of \mathcal{P}_j and the cooperating processors					
t_{ij}	the time moment when \mathcal{P}_{ij} finishes computing					
$\check{\Upsilon_j}$	number of nodes used in set of \mathcal{P}_j					
V	single load size					
ζ	number of i processing units per node Υ					

Table 1: List of symbols used in the problem formulation

equality (4) it is ensured that all the load is processed and it279 257 is true for all tested sets (\mathcal{P}_i). Due to the assumption of equal₂₈₀ 258 division of tasks ($\alpha_{ij} = \alpha_j$) within given division of \mathcal{P}_j , it is₂₈₁ 259 enough to sum the appropriate number of times (m_i) the size of 282 260 each load (α_i). Finally, an equality (5) provides the appropri-283 261 ate granularity of resource selection, ensuring that all available284 262 processing units (ζ) within selected nodes (Υ_i) will be utilized²⁸⁵ 263 within a given number of resources m_i in set of \mathcal{P}_i . 264

The mathematical approach presented is one of the possi-287 265 ble solutions to the problem of optimal selection of resources288 266 necessary for efficient execution of calculations. However, as-289 267 suming the complexity of the mathematical process, in the fur-290 268 ther part of the article we present an alternative method of its291 269 determination for the CFD computational task. It consists in292 270 empirical evaluation of the system performance and determina-293 271 tion of a set of resources (\mathcal{P}') best in terms of performance and²⁹⁴ 272 minimal energy consumption. 273 295

274 4. Application and HPC system overview

4.1. Implementation domain: Urban air pollution model

For the current benchmark, the performance of the CFD³⁰⁰ module of the Urban Air Project (UAP) developed under the³⁰¹ HiDALGO2 project [22] was utilised, which is based on the air³⁰² pollution model developed by Horváth et al. [23]. The Open-FOAM based UAP-FOAM module implements the simulation air flow and pollution spread using the air pollution model of UAP [24]. The Reynolds-Averaged Navier Stokes equations [25] are solved with weather-based boundary conditions for air flow coupled with an advection-diffusion equation with trafficbased source terms for pollution spread. A two step method is used for the simulation: first, a simpleFoam based solver is used to calculate a steady state for a specific time, which is used as an initial condition for a pimpleFoam based solver, which simulates time evolution of wind speed and pollution distribution.

In this paper, we focus on the steady-state part with simple-Foam, limiting the number of iterations for the solver to around 400-600 timeStep. However, it is worth remembering that we base our results on the average time of a single timeStep. For the geometry, the urban area of the Hungarian city, Győr is meshed, depicted on Figure 1. Boundary conditions are based on weather conditions, provided by ECMWF via the weather service interface, polytope [26]. Also, pollution source is based on traffic simulation and emission calculation using the COP-ERT model [27]. The OpenFOAM version used in these investigations was com version v2112 [28]. Simulation results can be observed in Figure 2.

The SCOTCH method is employed for work distribution among processes through domain decomposition, utilizing the

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Figure 1: Buildings and ground surfaces of the city of Győr within the high³¹⁹ resolution 3D mesh generated for benchmarking. Large scale (top) shows ur-320 ban area with ground (green) and buildings (grey). Local view (down) shows₃₂₁ surface elements for ground and building, as well as volume elements for air (blue).



Figure 2: Visualisation of simulation results of the UAP-FOAM model within the city of Győr. Geometric representation of buildings (brown), ground (grey), etc. come from the original city geometry, not the simulation mesh. Air flow is depicted with streamlines, while vectors indicate flow direction. Pollution concentration is indicated by the grey fog between the buildings. Lighter and darker colours indicate lower and higher concentration of pollution.



Figure 3: Visualisation of a sample cell having the form of a polyhedron that creates the mesh for the model and covers 8 grid points and 1 face for the MPI exchange

scotch library included in the OpenFOAM distribution [29]. This approach implements a weighing technique to partition the computational domain into segments, aiming to balance the sizes of these segments while minimising the number of interfaces between the decomposed sections. Consequently, the quantity of faces at the inter-process boundaries significantly affects the time allocated for communication between neighbouring processes.

In this finite volume simulation the simulation domain (the air around and within the city) is divided up to several polyhedral cell volumes, hence the cell count of every mesh. Faces are considered the even surfaces on these cells (Figure 3). While internal faces connect two cells, external faces will count as boundaries, like ground and building. After domain decomposition, internal faces may become communication patches between processors. The grid points of the mesh is made up from the cell vertex points.

Meshes used for these benchmarks are octree based and are generated using the in-house SZE tool octreemesher. All meshes use the same geometry, albeit at different resolutions, and are listed in Table 2. All input data including mesh, weather boundary and pollution source are precalculated and present in files for the benchmark.

A finer mesh with smaller cells significantly influences simulation accuracy by improving the resolution of flow features and enabling more precise capture of small-scale vortices, boundary layers, and turbulence structures, provided that grid refinement is appropriately applied in critical regions. For health impact assessments, pollutant concentrations are sampled at a height of 2 meters, where targeted grid refinement has been applied to improve accuracy. The current vertical resolution near the ground is 1 meter for the high-cell-count mesh and 2 meters for the mid-cell-count mesh, resulting in a significant difference in the simulation outcomes.

Table 2: Total numbers of cells for different meshes for UAP

uxlow	ulow	mlow low		mid	high
36248	139937	228263	728162	3227275	14332247

338 4.2. AMD EPYC cluster and software stack

In this work, we use the AMD-based cluster consisting of 40 nodes with two AMD EPYC 7763 CPUs of 64 cores each, clocked at 2.45GHz, and 256GB of DDR4-3200. A single AMD EPYC 7763 CPU features Thermal Design Power (TDP) at the level of 280 W [30]. The system operates with SMT disabled and turbo boost enabled. This cluster is interconnected with InfiniBand HDR.

The OpenFOAM-based implementation of UAP module is benchmarked. All OpenFOAM kernels are compiled with the AOCC compiler [31] and linked against the MPI library preinstalled by platform vendors (OpenMPI v.4.1.5). The AOCC compiler (v.4.1.0) is used with the optimisation flag -03 and architecture-specific compiler arguments -march=znver3 for AMD EPYC Milan CPU.

5. Work motivation

The main objective of this study is to assess the performance and energy implications of utilising varying quantities of compute nodes within a 40-node cluster through benchmarking the UAP model. To fulfil this objective, authors analyse and contrast execution duration, speed enhancements, instances of linear acceleration overshoot, costs associated with cluster utilisation, and projected total energy usage.

The execution time is measured by extracting the time stamps 361 written by OpenFOAM as "Execution Time" and subtracting 362 the first value from the last value of the OpenFoam simple-363 Foam solver. In this way, the time spent on initialisation is dis-364 carded, although the execution time of one iteration less is mea-365 sured. The strong scaling measurement concerns the speedup 366 for a fixed problem size and a different number of nodes. Fur-367 thermore, we outline a linear overshoot of the speedup, which 368 compares the linear speedup and the achieved strong scaling 369 speedup. 370

The utilisation cost of the cluster, measured in core-hours (core-h), is accounted for execution time and the number of re-372 served cores (one core-h represents the usage of one CPU core 373 for one hour). Since the energy measurement capabilities are 374 limited in the tested cluster, we propose to estimate the total 375 energy consumption assuming that TDP refers to the maximum 376 power requirements under load of each processor. As a result, 377 the total energy consumption is approximated by taking into 378 account the number of compute nodes used (number of proces-379 sors), the execution time, and the TDP metric. 380

Figure 4 presents an example of experimental performance results obtained for the UAP model by testing the mesh of size with 14332247 cells. This figure depicts the performance-energy comparison between different numbers of computing nodes, including setups with 1, 2, 4, 16, 24, 32, and 40 nodes (128 up to 5120 cores).

The test revealed that the 32-node configuration achieved the quickest execution time, approximately 39.38 seconds, as illustrated in Figure 4a. This configuration demonstrates a per-393 formance improvement of roughly 26.5 times when compared 394 to the 1-node setup shown in Figure 4b. The 32-node config-395 uration necessitates around 44.80 core-hours of computational



Figure 4: Performance results obtained for UAP of mesh size called high with 14332247 cells on a 40-node cluster, including a) execution time, b) measurement of strong scaling, c) linear speedup surpass, and d) cluster cost utilisation

time and utilises approximately 0.196 kWh of energy, as depicted in Figure 4d.

The highest performance improvement is observed for the

setup with 16 nodes (Figure 4b), reducing the calculation time448 396 from 1043.93 to 45.31 seconds and accelerating the compu-449 397 tation about 23.03x faster in comparison to 1 node. Conse-450 398 quently, the achieved speedup races 1.44x the linear speedup451 399 (Figure 4c), increasing the performance superlinearly. The to-452 400 tal utilisation cost of the 16-node setup requires about 25.77453 401 core-h, while the predicted total energy consumption is kept at454 402 the level of about 0.113 kWh (Figure 4d). 403

As shown in Figure 4c and Figure 4d, the 8-node setup fea-456 404 tures the best linear speedups surpass and cluster utilisation457 405 cost. In this instance, the simpleFoam kernel is executed in458 406 83.8 seconds, achieving a super-linear speedup and accelerating459 407 computations 12.45 times faster than a single node. It enhances₄₆₀ 408 the linear speedup by approximately 1.55 times. This compu-461 409 tation consumes 23.83 core-hours and necessitates 0.104 kWh462 410 for resource utilisation and energy expenditure, respectively. 411 463

The performed benchmark reveals that the 16-node setup₄₆₄ achieves desirable utilisation cost of the cluster and performance₄₆₅ trade-offs, enabling both computing-faster and energy-save setup₄₆₄ for the processed kernel. This setup features slightly slower₄₆₇ computation times than the 32-node configuration and also keeps cluster utilisation costs close to the level of the 8-node outcomes.

More precisely, employing 32 computing nodes compared
to the 16-node setup processes the simpleFoam kernel 1.15 times
faster. However, the cluster utilisation cost is 1.74x and it requires 2x more nodes. In this comparison we can sum up, the
performance advantage from the 32-node setup seems to be inadequate compared to the incurred costs.

Furthermore, when comparing the 8-node configuration to 425 the 16-node arrangement, we observe that the cluster utilisa-426 tion costs are nearly equivalent, with a slight preference for the 427 8-node setup. As anticipated, the 16-node configuration com-428 pleted the computations 1.85 times more quickly, albeit requir-429 ing double the number of nodes. Therefore, while the 8-node 430 setup incurs lower cluster utilisation costs, the computation duration may restrict the overall performance benefits. Moreover, 432 given that this configuration demonstrates a significant super-433 linear speedup exceeding 1.55 times the linear speedup, we an-434 ticipate superior utilisation of HPC resources in comparison to 435 other node configurations. 436

6. Metric definition and application evaluation

The subsequent stage of our research will concentrate on 438 thoroughly examining the effects of various workloads and com-439 putational duration on total energy consumption and perfor-440 mance. This understanding will enable us to make more in-441 formed choices regarding the optimisation of performance and 442 energy efficiency in computing systems. To reach this aim, the 443 CVOPTS (Core VOlume Points per TimeStep) metric is intro-444 duced, which allows a direct comparison of the parallel effi-468 445 ciency for applications by testing different mesh sizes and num-469 446 bers of computing nodes. The CVOPTS metric is calculated as: 470 447 471

$$CVOPTS = \frac{cells \ per \ core}{timeS \ tep} \qquad (6)_{473}^{472}$$

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where the cells per core parameter refers to the average number of mesh cells processed by every core while timeStep means the average computation time of a single timeStep of the simpleFoam kernel. This metric helps us estimate computing efficiency for different mesh sizes, indicating better platform utilisation for the higher CVOPTS level. The value of CVOPTS depends on a series of factors, including hardware-/applicationspecific features (see our previous works [32] for more details).

The results provided emphasise the alteration of grid size and the quantity of computational nodes to identify local maxima, which signify the ideal configuration of cells per core and the number of nodes. Table 3 shows cells assigned to a single core considering a variety of mesh sizes and different numbers of nodes. It outlines how the number of cells changes considering (i) a variety of mesh sizes and a fixed number of computing resources (see rows in the table), as well as (ii) a fixed mesh size and a different number of nodes (see columns in the table). Table 4 presents measurements for the average execution time of a single timeStep obtained for a variety of mesh sizes and different numbers of nodes.

Table 3: Number of cells per core for a variety of mesh sizes and different numbers of nodes

		uxlow	ulow	mlow	low	mid	high
	1	283	1093	1783	5689	25213	111971
des	2	142	547	892	2844	12607	55985
0u	4	71	273	446	1422	6303	27993
of	8	35	137	223	711	3152	13996
ber	16	18	68	111	356	1576	6998
l III	24	12	46	74	237	1051	4665
Ź	32	9	34	56	178	788	3499
	40	7	27	45	142	630	2799

Table 4: Average execution time [s] of a single timeStep for simpleFoam kernel

		Mesh sizes						
		uxlow	ulow	mlow	low	mid	high	
	1	0.016	0.026	0.028	0.045	0.322	2.616	
des	2	0.020	0.027	0.035	0.039	0.140	1.057	
no	4	0.022	0.034	0.038	0.030	0.080	0.428	
of	8	0.027	0.034	0.036	0.035	0.062	0.210	
ber	16	0.028	0.044	0.039	0.035	0.052	0.114	
m	24	0.036	0.041	0.050	0.036	0.057	0.101	
ź	32	0.034	0.045	0.047	0.046	0.058	0.099	
	40	0.042	0.049	0.060	0.051	0.066	0.120	

Considering all cell configurations per core (presented in Table 3) and performance measurements (described in Table 4), we investigate the performance metric CVOPTS for the simple-Foam kernel. Figure 5 and Figure 6 deliver the CVOPTS values for a variety of mesh sizes obtained for a fixed amount of computing resources. More precisely, Figure 5 illustrates CVOPTS



Figure 5: CVOPTS performance metric for the simpleFoam kernel obtained by testing a variety of mesh sizes on 1 node

⁴⁷⁴ obtained on 1 node, while Figure 6 expands proposed measure-⁵¹⁰
⁴⁷⁵ ments on the 2-, 4-, 8-, 16-, 24-, 32-, and 40-node setups, by
⁴⁷⁶ testing all meshes for every node setup individually.

As illustrated in Figure 5, CVOPTS increases until a turning 477 point (inflection point) and then decreases. The turning point is 478 observed for a small grid size. To explain the CVOPTS results, a 479 closer look at the hardware specifications and application fea-480 tures is necessary. In our earlier scrutiny [32], we contend that a 481 reduction in the number of cells per core leads to an escalation 482 in the costs associated with MPI communication, thereby pro-483 gressively constraining the potential performance that can be 484 attained. On the other hand, the increase in the number of cells 485 causes higher and higher demand on the cache and main mem-486 ory subsystems. As a result, the overall performance becomes 487 increasingly limited through the data traffic between the cache 488 and main memory subsystems. Conversely, the turning point of 489 the CVOPTS curve presents a trade-off among MPI, cache, and 490 main memory concerning data traffic communication, thereby 491 facilitating optimal hardware utilisation. The findings presented 492 in this report suggest the ideal number of cells per core, which 493 aligns with a low grid size in a single-node configuration. 494

The CVOPTS curves show similar behaviour when testing 495 all meshes on different numbers of nodes separately (Figure 6). $_{511}$ 496 However, we observe a drop in the CVOPTS trend between sub_{512}^{511} 497 sequent node setups. The configuration with a single node ex-498 . 513 hibits the most favourable trend for CVOPTS, whereas an in-499 crease in the number of nodes leads to a decline in the CVOPTS⁵¹⁴ 500 trend, culminating in the 40-node configuration, which presents 501 the least beneficial trend for CVOPTS. 502

The increasing demand for inter-node MPI communication may explain the observed decreasing CVOPTS trends for different numbers of nodes. Figure 7 tracks the average number of faces shared with other MPI processes depending on different numbers of nodes and the underlined mesh sizes. The larger number of nodes causes workload distribution across more cores and requires more communication, resulting in the drop of the set



Figure 6: CVOPTS performance metric for the simpleFoam kernel obtained by testing a variety of mesh sizes and different number of nodes

CVOPTS trends.



Figure 7: The average number of faces shared with other MPI processors

Moreover, Figure 8 reveals the calculated trend of CVOPTS for a fixed mesh size (high) obtained on different number of nodes. The trend observed for CVOPTS exhibits a pattern akin to that of the prior study: it rises to a certain peak before subsequently declining. The results reported here indicate the optimal number of cells per core that refer to the 8-node setup when processing the high mesh size. Consequently, the 8-node setup features the data traffic trade-offs, resulting in increased performance superlinearly where the improvement in execution time is greater than the proportional increase in computing resources. This occurs due to better cache utilization and lower MPI communication costs. Following the previous examination, the MPI communication cost increases when more and more cores (nodes) are used, consequently increasingly limiting CVOPTS for more than eight nodes. Opposite, utilising a di minishing number of nodes results in an increasing number of
 cells per core, which escalates the demand for cache-memory
 subsystems and constrains overall performance.



Figure 8: CVOPTS performance metric for the simpleFoam kernel obtained by testing a different number of computing nodes and a fixed mesh size

7. Prediction model of application execution and cluster util isation costs

The CVOPTS performance metric becomes essential for eval-531 uating and balancing performance with energy consumption to 532 achieve cost-effective hardware configuration. It helps us to in-533 dicate the best number of cells per core showing (i) how CVOPTS 534 varies with different meshes for a given node setup, and (ii) how 535 CVOPTS varies with the number of nodes for a fixed mesh size. 536 Based on the empirical results, we deliver the CVOPTS-based 537 prediction model that estimates the CVOPTS trendline to approx-538 imate application runtime and cluster utilisation costs. 539

540 7.1. CVOPTS-based prediction model

The ultimate objective in addressing this challenge is to 541 create a regression-based model that utilises the CVOPTS mea-542 surements collected from fixed node configurations and various 543 mesh sizes. This model aims to forecast the overall CVOPTS 544 trendline specific to a particular mesh size and differing node 545 quantities. To this end, we first select the CVOPTS measure-546 ments that can be used as input data to fit the data within a 547 polynomial function. In our experiments, we emphasise that a 5/18 single-node setup does not incur any inter-node MPI data traffic costs, while the experiments performed on eight and higher 550 numbers of nodes do not feature turning points of CVOPTS curves 551 for tested mesh sizes (see Figure 6). Consequently, we follow 552 the remaining CVOPTS measurements obtained on 2- and 4-node 553 setups that represent the trendline CVOPTS points for cells per 554 core of range [71, 55985] (see Table 3 and Figure 6). 555

Secondly, we develop the Python-based script using a NumPig1 library to reveal a nonlinear relationship between the selected $^{\rm 562}$

CVOPTS measurements and cells per core. To achieve the goal of the best fit curve and defining a polynomial function, we employ both poly1D and polyfit methods offered with the help of the NumPy library and use decimal logarithmic transformations for input data. As a result, this investigation enables us to apply a polynomial function model to the equation formulated in the following manner:

$$f(x) = 498x^6 + 3939x^5 - 146400^4 + 1087000x^2 - 3514000x^2 + 5292000x + 3036000$$

In our example, we propose to fit a polynomial of degree 6 to capture the underlying trend of CVOPTS. It refers to the relationship between the cells per core of range [71, 55985] and their CVOPTS measurement points of 2-/4-node setups. Figure 9a illustrates the CVOPTS trendline based on the fitted model.



Figure 9: The CVOPTS-based prediction model: a) polynomial regression fitted on 2-/4-node outcomes, and b) model examination for mesh size high and different numbers of node-setups

The defined fit function of the CVOPTS trendline enables the approximation of the value of CVOPTS for a given mesh size

and the various numbers of nodes. However, the approximation is constrained to the range [71, 55985] of cells per core. Therefore, for example, let's focus on a large grid size with 14332247 cells (see Table 3), we will limit the range of node configurations specifying the minimum and maximum number of cores to $256 \approx \frac{14332247}{55985}$ and $201862 \approx \frac{14332247}{71}$, respectively. This specifies a range of [2,1577] in the number of nodes that need to be considered, assuming 2x64 cores per node.

Figure 9b demonstrates the prediction results of CVOPTS for the high mesh size and 2, 4, 8, 16, 24, 32, and 40-node setups 572 compared to real outcomes obtained during tests. As expected, 573 the prediction fits perfectly for 2-node and 4-node setups since 574 the applied regression model is trained based on the 2-node 575 and 4-node CVOPTS points. However, for an increasing number 576 of nodes, the CVOPTS-based regression model predicts CVOPTS 577 points that are increasingly different from the obtained results. 578 Note that despite the increasing prediction error, the predicted 579 CVOPTS trendline shows a similar behaviour to the actual re-580 sults: it increases until a turning point and then decreases. 581

582 7.2. Faces-based extension for prediction model

To explain the increasing prediction error of the approxi-583 mated CVOPTS curve, a closer look at the MPI data traffic be-584 tween MPI processors is required. Following the CVOPTS-based 585 prediction model that approximates CVOPTS for a given mesh₆₁₉ 586 size and the various numbers of nodes, we examine the data 587 traffic exchange of the faces shared between MPI processors by $_{\rm 621}$ 588 fixing the mesh sizes and testing different numbers of nodes. 589 As illustrated in Figure 7 and Figure 10a, the volume of 590 faces exchange with other MPI processors radically increases 591 when applying more nodes for a given problem size. Since 592 the proposed CVOPTS-based prediction model is based on 2-/4-593 node setups, the increased communication costs for more nodes 594 are not correlated with the prediction. Consequently, it gen-595 erates increasing prediction error of the approximated CVOPTS 629 596 curve. To overcome this limitation, we propose to calibrate the $_{\rm 630}$ 597 CVOPTS-based prediction model by including communication 598 costs in the estimates. 599 632

The communication costs can be modelled as the faces traf- $\frac{1}{633}$ 600 fic ratio that reveals how faces volume grows for the increased $_{634}$ 601 number of nodes. The faces traffic ratio is calculated separately $_{\rm _{635}}$ 602 for every mesh size by dividing the total number of faces ob-603 tained on subsequent node-setups by the total number of faces 604 from the 4-node setup used in the proposed CVOPTS-based pre-605 diction model. Figure 10b shows the faces traffic ratio calcu-606 lated for all underlined mesh sizes and 4-, 8-, 16-, 24-, 32-, and 607 40-node setups. In addition, following the obtained measure-608 ments, we apply the linear regression model that attempts to 609 simulate the relationship between the faces traffic ratio and the 610 number of nodes (Figure 10). As a result, this linear regression 611 simulates the curve of faces traffic ratio for 4 to 40 nodes. 612

For the purpose of this work, the predicted curve of the faces traffic ratio is experimentally used for calibrating the CVOPTSbased prediction model. To reach this aim, we propose reducing the predicted CVOPTS by the factor of the estimated ratio for faces traffic. For a predetermined problem size, the CVOPTSbased prediction model calculates the CVOPTS curve, which is



Figure 10: The data traffic volume of the faces shared between MPI processors (a), and the faces traffic ratio calculated in comparison to 4-node setup (b)

subsequently allocated to various node counts based on the grid dimensions and the number of cells designated per core. Each node configuration undergoes calibration of the CVOPTS prediction through the introduced faces-based extension, which involves decreasing its value in accordance with the face ratio factor.

Figure 11 demonstrates the prediction results of the CVOPTSbased model with enabled faces-based extension for the high mesh size and 2-, 4-, 8-, 16-, 24-, 32-, and 40-node setups. The predicted outcomes are examined with comparison to real measurements collected during the testing process.

As shown in Figure 11, the predicted trendline CVOPTS behaves similarly to the actual measurements: it increases until a turning point and then decreases. Furthermore, the proposed calibration enables reducing prediction error of the approximated CVOPTS curve. Table 5 shows the relative errors of the CVOPTS values to the estimated values from the prediction model as well as the faces-based extension method.

Table 5: The relative errors $E1_{rel}$ and $E2_{rel}$ between the measurement of CVOPTS and the estimated values from the prediction model and the facesbased extension method

#Nodes	2	4	8	16	24	32	40
El _{rel}	0.6	2.8	25.4	41.0	76.6	110.7	192.8
$E2_{rel}$	4.4	10.6	8.7	22.5	22.0	22.3	7.3

8. Pursuing performance-energy trade-off

This section aims to assess the proposed prediction model and investigates the performance-energy trade-off. We exam-

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Figure 11: The faces-based extension for CVOPTS-based prediction model

ine the proposed prediction model by testing a new mesh size $_{\scriptscriptstyle 689}$ 640 consisting of 21673212 cells in total. To this end, the CVOPTS-641 based prediction model calculates the CVOPTS curve following 642 the predetermined problem sizes (see Table 3). The indicated $_{692}$ 643 polynomial regression function for CVOPTS is associated with $_{693}$ 644 various node counts based on the new mesh size and the num-645 ber of cells designated per core. Then, the CVOPTS trendline is $_{695}$ 646 calibrated through the introduced faces-based extension, which 647 involves decreasing its value by the face ratio factor. As a result, 648 we predict the CVOPTS values for 4 to 40 nodes when perform-696 ing the 21673212 cells (Figure 12a). 650

The performed model reveals the node-setups that feature 651 the highest CVOPTS values, including the top 5 configurations 652 with 9, 10, 8, 11, or 7 nodes. In contrast, the CVOPTS values₇₀₀ 653 decrease when using larger and smaller numbers of nodes than₇₀₁ 654 select top 5 setups. To examine the predicted values, we per- $_{702}$ 655 form tests for different node-setups with special emphasis on $_{_{703}}$ 656 the top 5 list. As shown in Figure 12a, the predicted values704 657 of CVOPTS fit the real measurements, where the best results are $_{705}$ 658 obtained for 8- and 7-node setups. 659

According to the CVOPTS performance metric (see equation₇₀₇ (6)), we propose to estimate application execution time for a_{708} single timeStep, and then approximate the cluster utilisation₇₀₉ costs. The Estimated execution Time of a single timeStep (ETS)₇₁₀ can be simply defined for every node-setup as:

$$ETS = \frac{cells \ per \ core}{CVOPTS}$$
712
713
713
714

where the *cells per core* parameter is associated with the num-715 ber of applied nodes and calculated based on a given mesh size716 and the number of cells designated per core, while CVOPTS717 brings the predicted values from the proposed model. Conse-718 quently, the utilisation cost of the cluster for a single timeStep719 is approximated as the product of ETS and the total number of720 cores. Furthermore, the total energy consumption is defined as721

the product of ETS, the number of applied nodes, and doubled TDP (assuming two CPUs per node and TDP = 280 for used Milan-based CPUs [30]).

Figures 12b and 12c demonstrate both the estimation for application execution time and approximation of cluster utilisation cost for a single time step and mesh size with 21673212 cells. In addition, these figures reveal the comparison between prediction and real measurements. As shown in figures 12b, the shortest execution time is indicated for the 40-node setup considering both prediction outcomes and real measurements. The performed tests reveal that application execution time estimation fits runtime measurements. It should be noted that we observe relatively negligible performance improvements when employing more and more nodes, starting from around the 16node setup. Conversely, notable improvements in performance are evident for node configurations comprising as many as 16 nodes.

Investigating results of the cluster utilisation costs (see Figure 12c), the lowest costs are observed for node-setups with around 7-9 nodes considering both prediction outcomes and real measurements. For a higher and smaller number of nodes, the costs of cluster utilisation increase significantly. The predicted costs trendline shows similar behaviour to the actual results. However, the prediction error for the cluster utilisation cost seems to be larger compared to CVOPTS and application execution estimations. We underline that this prediction error depends mainly on differences between the predicted and measured time of a single timeStep and then is further expanded by the numbers of nodes/cores and/or TDP parameters.

9. Conclusions

This work investigates the significance of energy efficiency in high-performance computing, emphasising the necessity for sustainable approaches that reduce carbon emissions while ensuring optimal computational performance. The analysis is conducted using the Urban Air Pollution model implemented in OpenFOAM. A test environment comprising 40 nodes, each equipped with two AMD EPYC 7763 processors, was selected for this research. Initially, the study compared execution times, speedups, cluster usage costs, and estimated total energy consumption across various problem sizes. The findings enabled conclusions regarding the impact of different workloads and computational duration on overall energy consumption and performance.

To enhance the comparison of performance and energy efficiency among computing systems, the metric CVOPTS was introduced, representing the average number of grid cells processed per core, while timeStep indicates the average computation time for a single timeStep of the simpleFoam kernel. This metric is essential for assessing and optimising performance in relation to power consumption, thereby facilitating the development of a cost-efficient hardware configuration. Furthermore, CVOPTS served as the foundation for developing a regressionbased model designed to forecast the overall CVOPTS trend line pertinent to a specific grid size and varying quantities of nodes. To increase the prediction accuracy, the regression model was



Figure 12: Prediction model examination for the mesh size with 21673212 cells⁷⁷¹ and different numbers of nodes: a) predicted and real CVOPTS comparison, b)⁷⁷² application execution time estimations and runtime measurements summary,⁷⁷³ and c) approximation of the cluster utilisation cost compared to the actual re-⁷⁷⁴ sults 776

extended with an important aspect related to inter-node communication.

In order to validate the assumptions established, the anticipated outcomes are verified through a comparison with the actual measurements obtained during the testing phase. This analysis identified the node configurations exhibiting the highest CVOPTS values, specifically highlighting the top five configurations consisting of 9, 10, 8, 11, or 7 nodes. Nevertheless, it was observed that the CVOPTS values diminish when employing either a greater or fewer number of nodes than those found in the selected top five configurations. On the top of that, utilising the CVOPTS metric, a proposal was made to evaluate the application execution time for a single timeStep (ETS), which subsequently enabled the estimation of the costs associated with utilising the entire cluster.

The analysis of the forecasting outcomes alongside actual measurements indicates that the most economical configurations are those comprising approximately 7 to 9 nodes. In contrast, other configurations of computing nodes exhibit considerably elevated cluster utilisation costs. Furthermore, the forecasting error associated with cluster utilisation costs appears to be more pronounced when compared to the estimates provided by CVOPTS and application execution. This discrepancy is primarily due to the variations between the anticipated and actual duration of a single time step, which is exacerbated by the rising number of nodes/cores and TDP parameters.

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- exploring the importance of performance-energy correlation for CFD codes (OpenFOAM), highlighting the need for sustainable and efficient use of HPC clusters

- CVOPTS (Core VOlume Points per TimeStep) metric is introduced, to enable a direct comparison of the parallel efficiency for applications in modern HPC architectures

- the results confirmed by numerous tests on a 40-node cluster, considering representative grid sizes

- prediction model was derived to determine the optimal number of computational nodes considering both the computational and communication costs of the simulation

- the research reveals the impact of the AMD EPYC architecture on superspeedup, where performance increases superlinearly with the addition of more computational resources

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Declaration of interests

 \boxtimes The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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