

2024 NETL Workshop on Multiphase Flow Science  
Aug 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024



# ActivO: A Novel Active Machine Learning Framework for Rapid Simulation-driven Design Optimization



**Pinaki Pal**

*Senior Research Scientist*

*Department of Advanced Propulsion and Power*

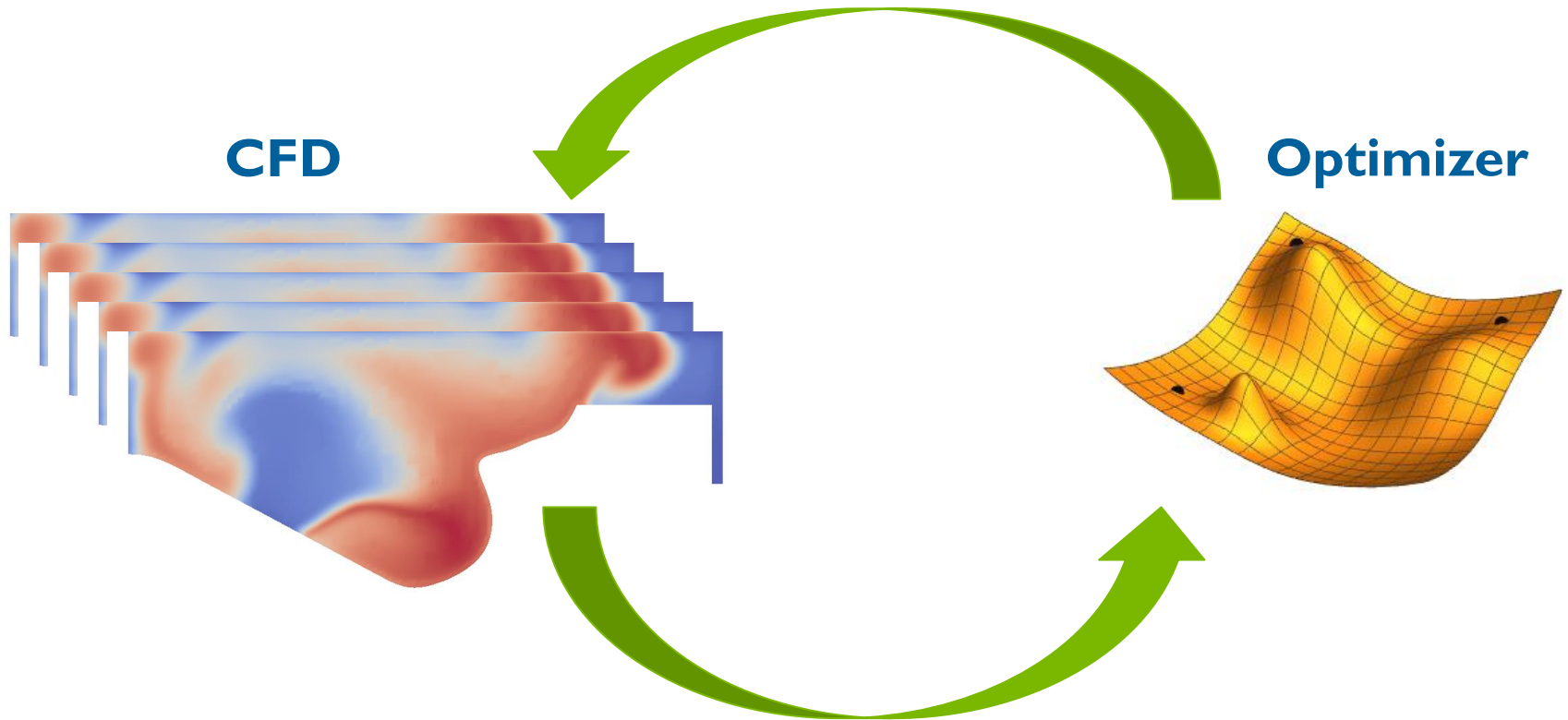
*Transportation and Power Systems Division*

*Argonne National Laboratory*

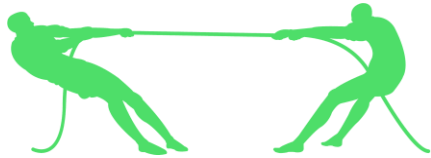
Software Copyright, SF-19-165

U.S. patent, ANL-IN-19-103 (pending)

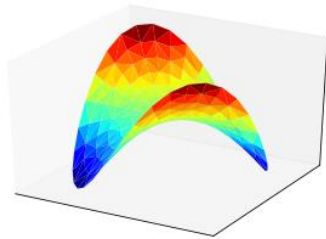
# SIMULATION-DRIVEN DESIGN OPTIMIZATION



# CHALLENGES OF SIMULATION-DRIVEN DESIGN



*Competing objectives*



*Large multidimensional design spaces (10-20+ control variables)  
Highly multi-modal and non-convex response surfaces*

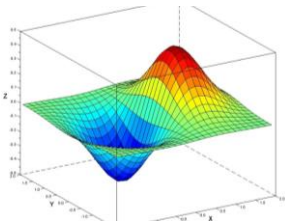
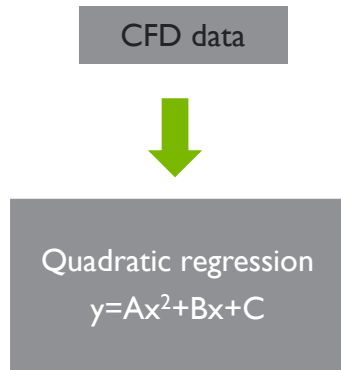


*CFD simulations can be time-consuming & costly*

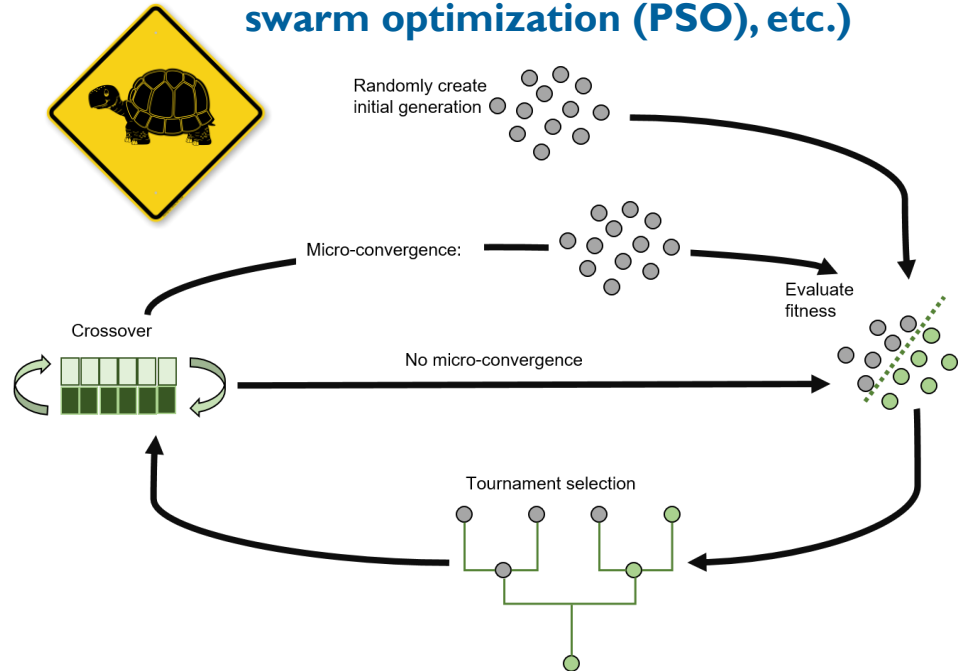
# SIMULATION-DRIVEN DESIGN OPTIMIZATION

## Conventional approaches

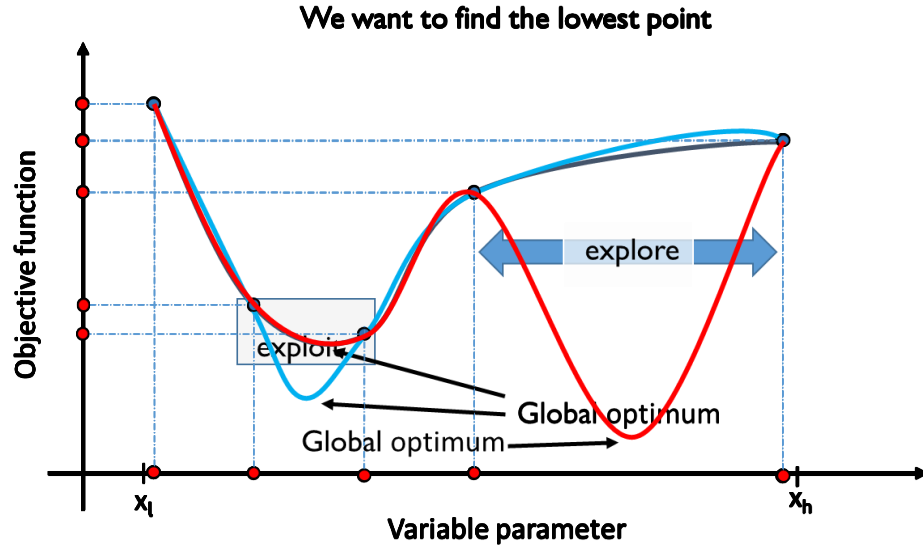
### Design of Experiments (DoE)



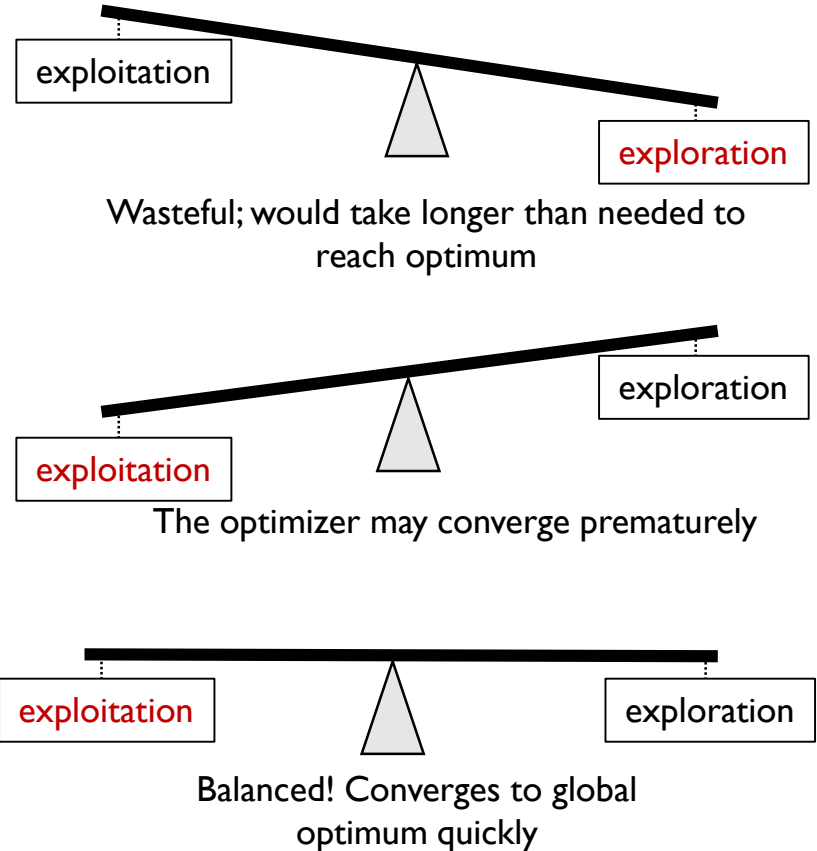
### Sequential evolutionary algorithms (Genetic algorithm (GA), particle swarm optimization (PSO), etc.)



# EXPLORATION vs EXPLOITATION OF DESIGN SPACE

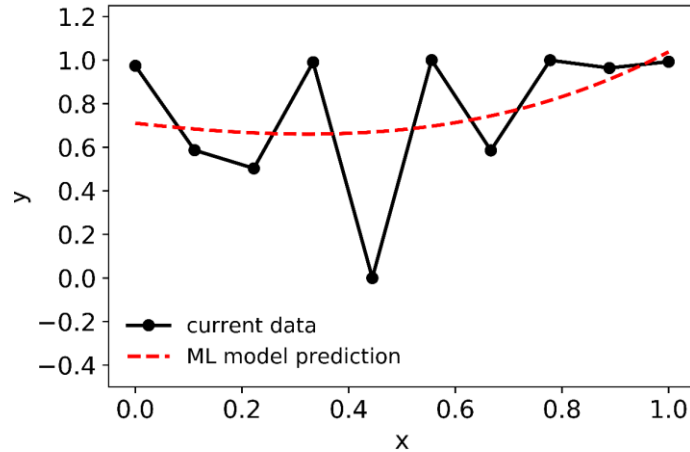


- Which value of  $x$  (design variables) should we run the next batch of simulations?
- Goal: Reach global optimum in as few calls to  $f(x)$  as possible

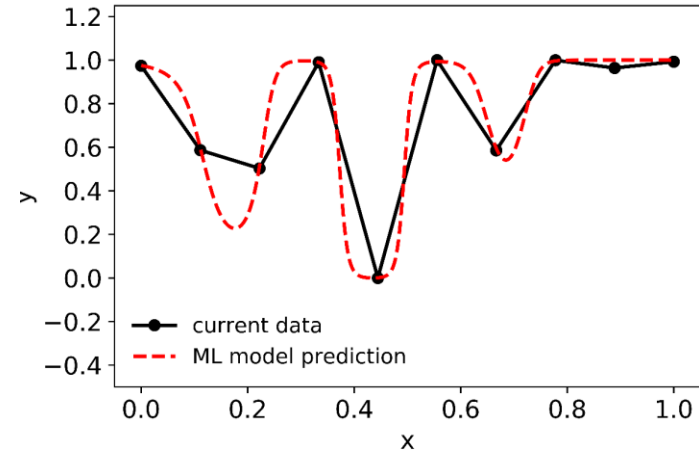


# ActivO: COMBINING STRONG AND WEAK LEARNERS

Weak Learner

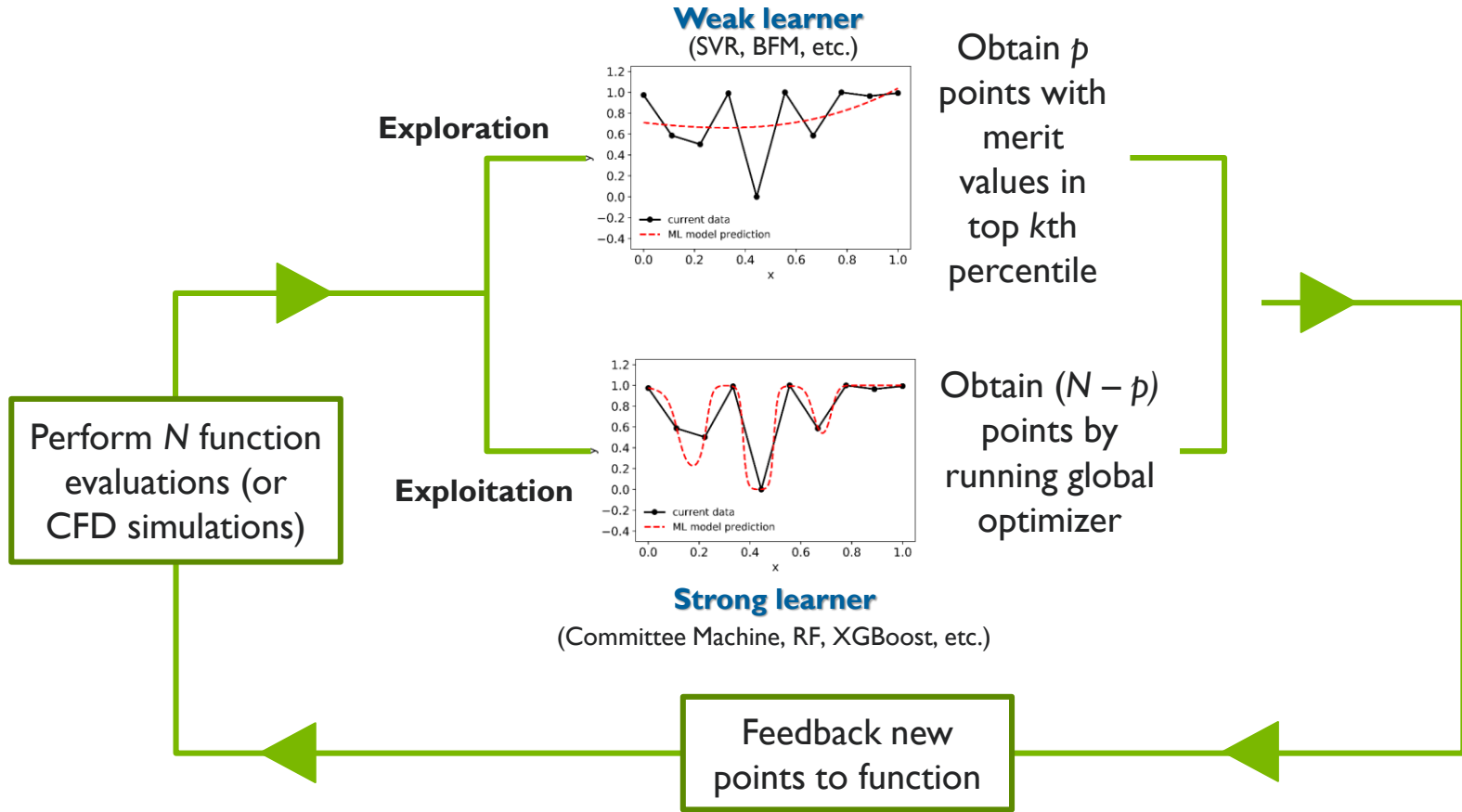


Strong Learner

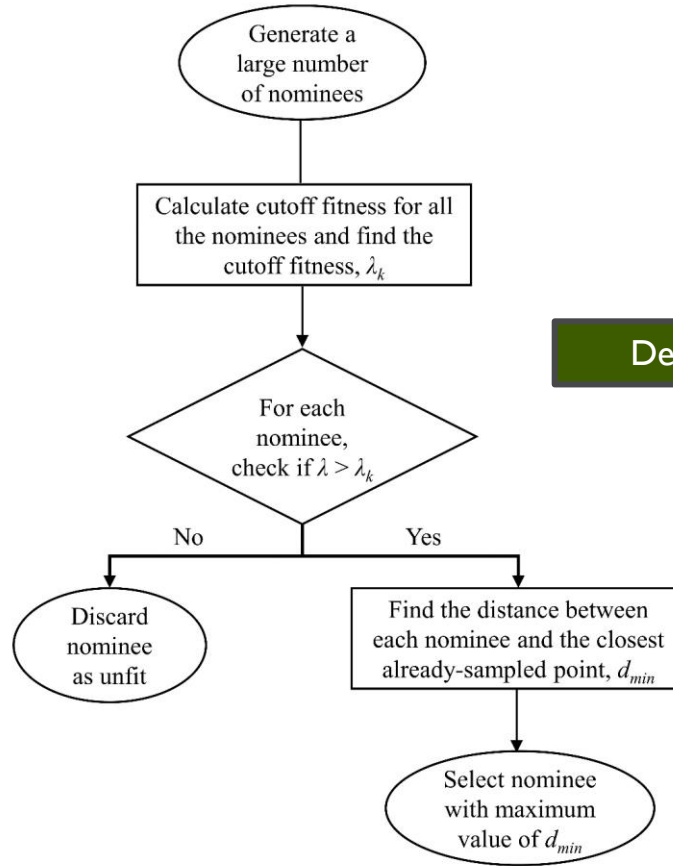


- Weak learner gives information about where the promising regions are
- Strong learner provides local surface topology within the promising region

# ActivO WORKFLOW



# SELECTION OF PROMISING CANDIDATES BY THE WEAK LEARNER

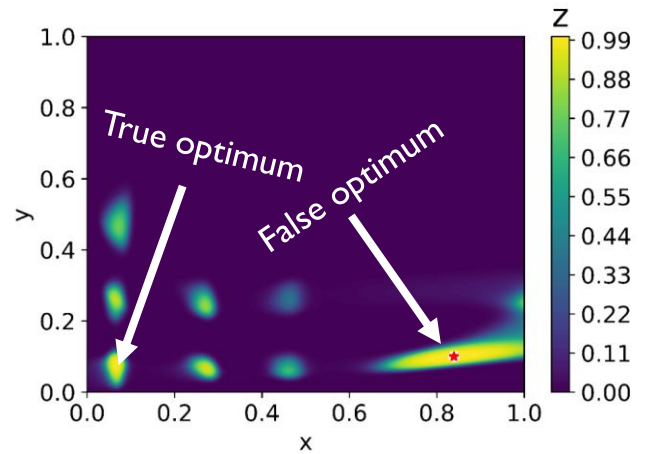
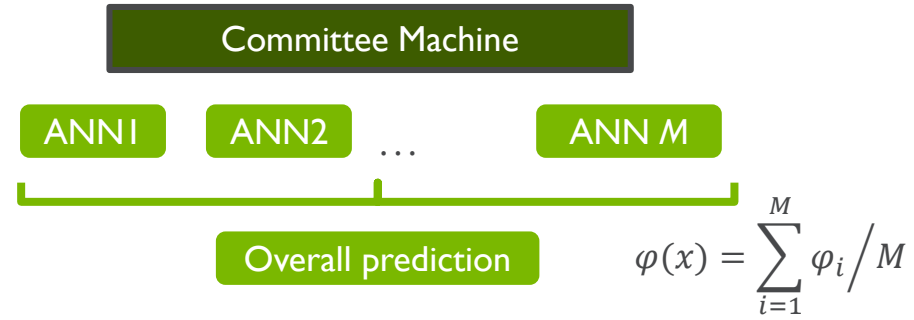
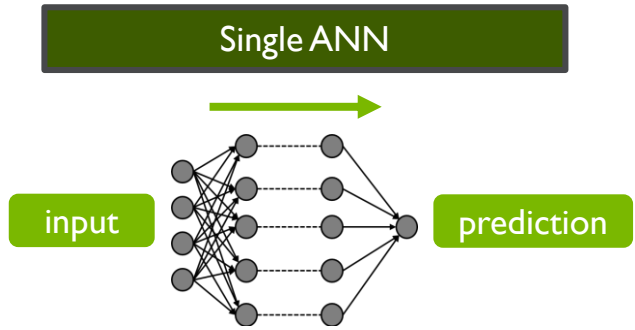


Design space exploration

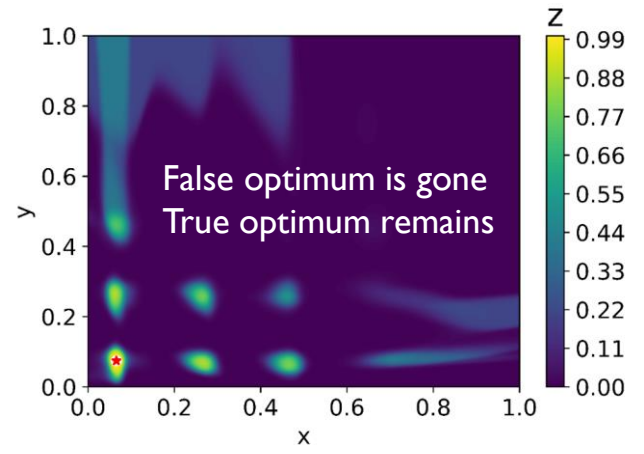
Smart sampling



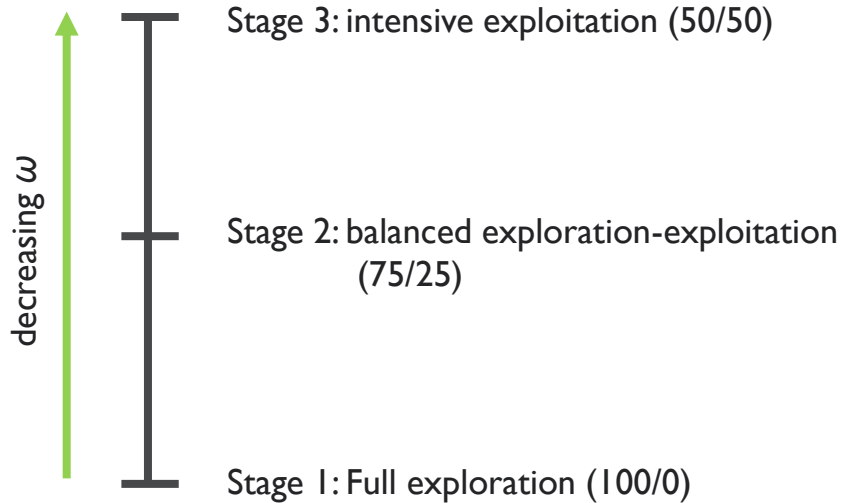
# REFINEMENTS (STRONG LEARNER)



more robust



# ActivO: DYNAMIC EXPLORATION-EXPLOITATION



The basic idea is to explore “more” in the earlier phases of the optimization process and exploit “more” later as we collect more information

- At the beginning, define several monitor points ( $M$ ) all over the design surface ( $M \gg N$ )
- At each iteration, determine the prediction of the weak learner at each of these monitor points,  $\Phi$
- Determine the maximum change in the weak learner predictions for monitor points within promising regions:
$$\omega^i = \max \left| 100 \times \frac{\Phi^i - \Phi^{i-1}}{\Phi^{i-1}} \right| \%$$
- This maximum change is defined as  $\omega$
- $\omega$  gives a measure of how much the weak learner predictions close to the projected global optimum are changing
- If  $\omega$  increases above 5%, explore more; if it is decreasing, increase exploitation
- Convergence is assumed to occur if  $\omega$  remains below 5% and the improvement in the best fitness is less than  $\varepsilon$  for 5 successive iterations

# CANONICAL 2D OPTIMIZATION TEST CASE

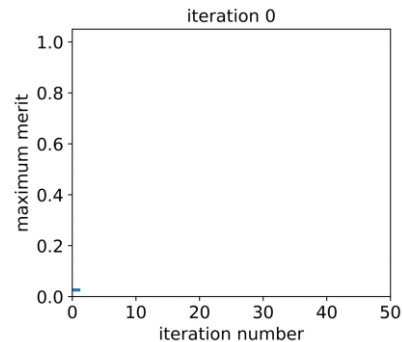
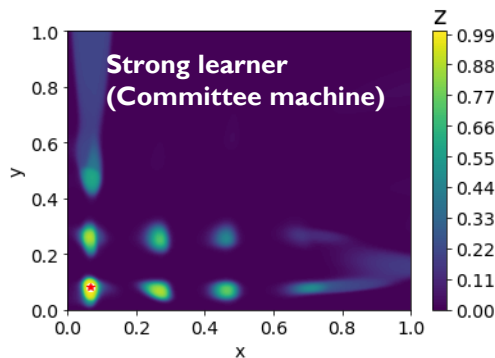
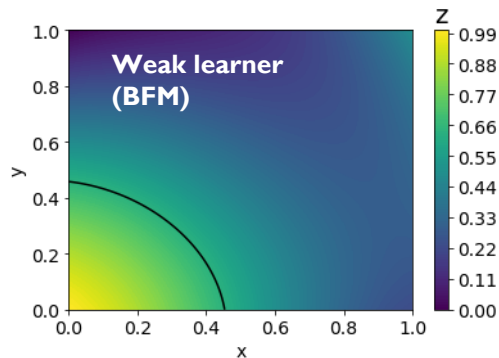
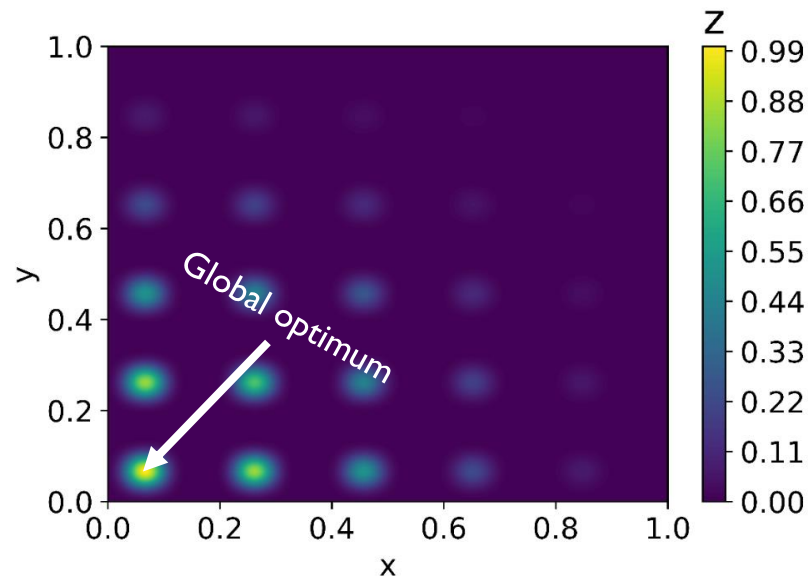
$$f_x = \exp\left(\frac{-4 \log 2 (x - 0.0667)^2}{0.64}\right) \sin(5.1\pi x + 0.5)^6$$

$$f_y = \exp\left(\frac{-4 \log 2 (y - 0.0667)^2}{0.64}\right) \sin(5.1\pi y + 0.5)^6$$

**Merit function**

→  $z = f_x f_y$

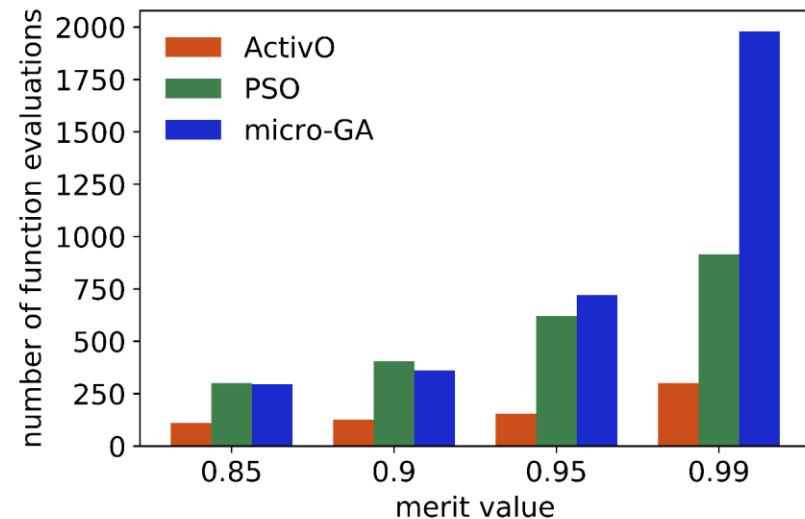
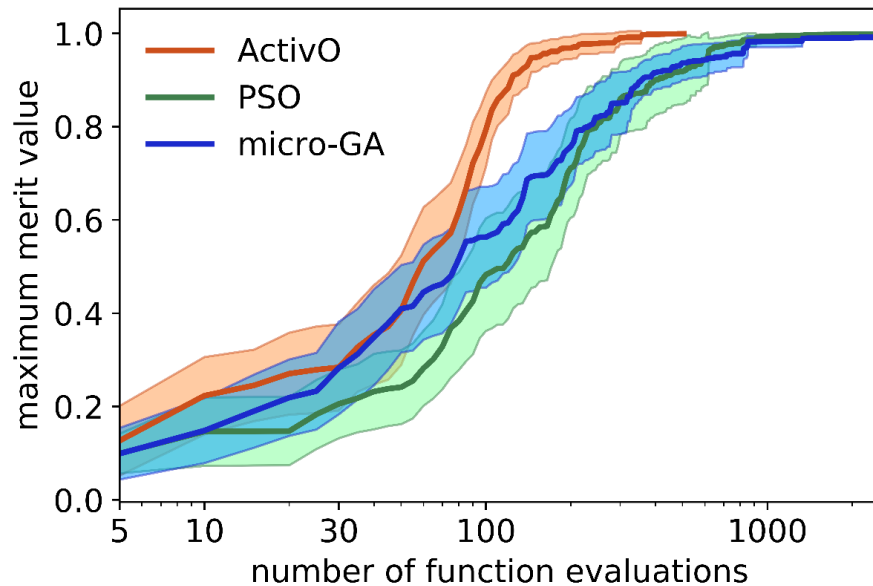
Maximum  $z = 1.0$  occurring  
at  $x = y \approx 0.0668$



5 function  
evaluations per  
iteration

# OPTIMIZATION RESULTS

Merit values based on average across 25 trials



- ActivO is ~6 times faster than  $\mu$ GA and ~3 times faster than PSO
- ActivO is more robust than  $\mu$ GA and PSO

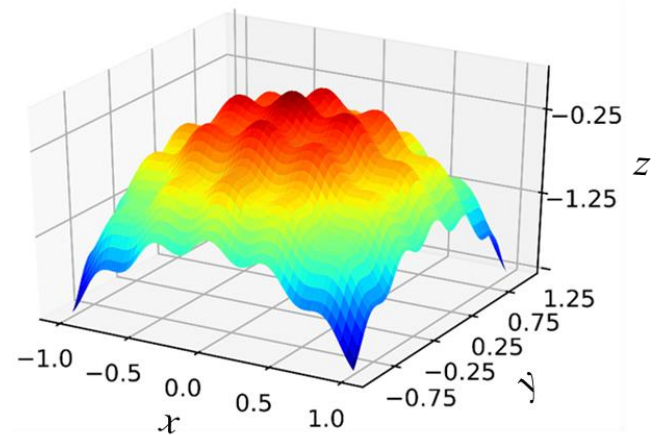
# COSINE MIXTURE FUNCTION TEST CASE

$$z = 0.1 (\cos 5\pi x + \cos 5\pi y) - (x^2 + y^2)$$

$$x \in [-1, 1], y \in [-1, 1]$$

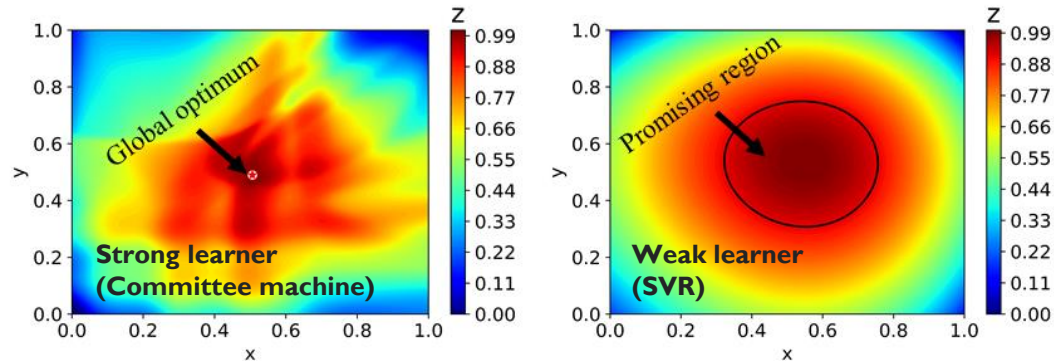
Objective is to maximize  $z$

Maximum  $z$  (= 0.2) occurs at  $x = y = 0$



# COSINE MIXTURE FUNCTION TEST CASE

After convergence of ActivO

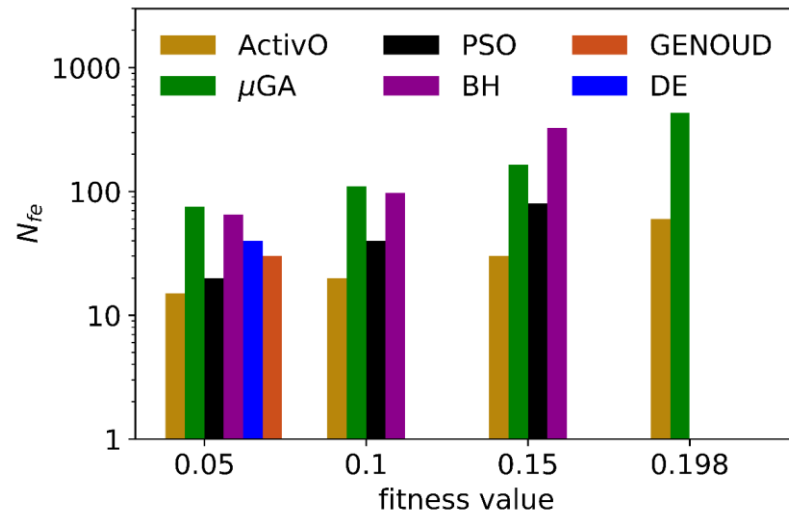
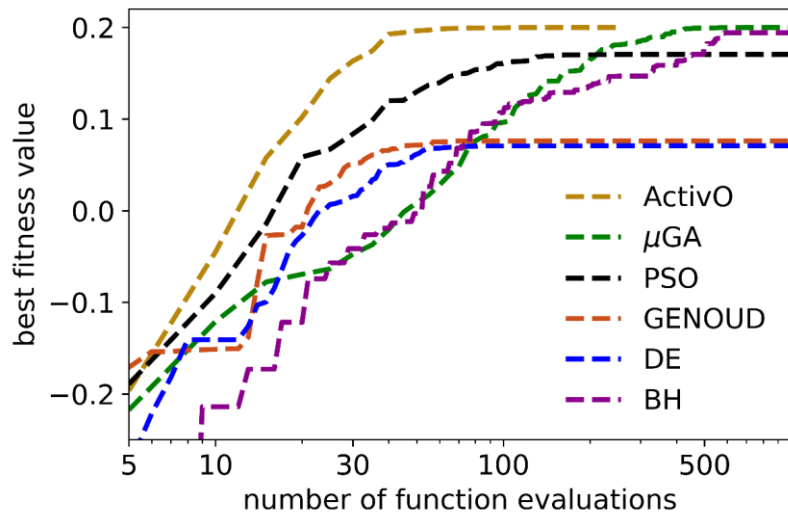


ActivO is compared against 5 state-of-the-art optimizers:

1. Micro-genetic Algorithm ( $\mu$ GA)
2. Particle Swarm Optimizer (PSO)
3. Differential Evolution (DE)
4. Genetic Optimization using Derivatives (GENOUD)
5. Basin Hopping (BH)

# OPTIMIZATION RESULTS

Merit values based on average across 25 trials



- ActivO converges to the global optimum much faster than all the other optimizers
- PSO, DE, and GENOUD converge prematurely and fail to reach the global optimum

# CFD-DRIVEN IC ENGINE OPTIMIZATION TEST CASE

- Optimization of a heavy-duty engine operating on a gasoline-like fuel at a medium load condition
- Nine-dimensional design space

| Notation | Input Parameter           | min  | max  | units |
|----------|---------------------------|------|------|-------|
| nNoz     | Number of Nozzle holes    | 8    | 10   | -     |
| TNA      | Total Nozzle Area         | 1    | 1.3  | -     |
| Pinj     | Injection Pressure        | 1400 | 1800 | bar   |
| SOI      | Start of injection timing | -11  | -7   | dATDC |
| Nang     | Nozzle Inclusion Angle    | 73   | 83   | deg   |
| EGR      | EGR fraction              | 0.35 | 0.5  | -     |
| Tivc     | IVC temperature           | 323  | 373  | K     |
| Pivc     | IVC pressure              | 2.0  | 2.3  | bar   |
| SR       | Swirl Ratio               | -2.4 | -1   | -     |

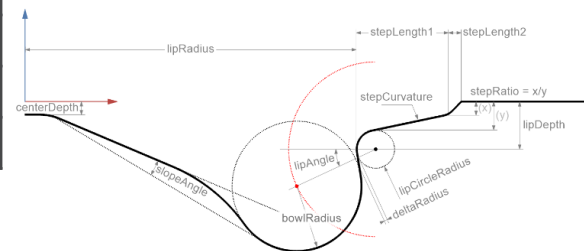
$$\text{Merit} = 100 * \left( \frac{160}{\text{ISFC}} - f(\text{P}_{\text{MAX}}) - f(\text{M}_{\text{PRR}}) - \left( \frac{f(\text{SOOT}) - f(\text{NO}_x)}{f(\text{SOOT}) - f(\text{NO}_x)} \right) \right)$$

$$f(\text{P}_{\text{MAX}}) = 100 \begin{cases} \frac{\text{P}_{\text{MAX}}}{220} - 1, & \text{if } \text{P}_{\text{MAX}} > 220 \\ 0, & \text{if } \text{P}_{\text{MAX}} \leq 220 \end{cases}$$

$$f(\text{M}_{\text{PRR}}) = 10 \begin{cases} \frac{\text{M}_{\text{PRR}}}{15} - 1, & \text{if } \text{M}_{\text{PRR}} > 15 \\ 0, & \text{if } \text{M}_{\text{PRR}} \leq 15 \end{cases}$$

$$f(\text{SOOT}) = \begin{cases} \frac{\text{SOOT}}{0.0268} - 1, & \text{if } \text{SOOT} > 0.0268 \\ 0, & \text{if } \text{SOOT} \leq 0.0268 \end{cases}$$

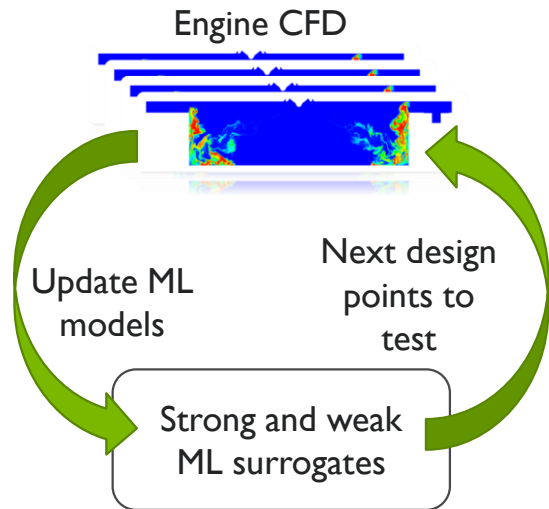
$$f(\text{NO}_x) = \begin{cases} \frac{\text{NO}_x}{1.34} - 1, & \text{if } \text{NO}_x > 1.34 \\ 0, & \text{if } \text{NO}_x \leq 1.34 \end{cases}$$



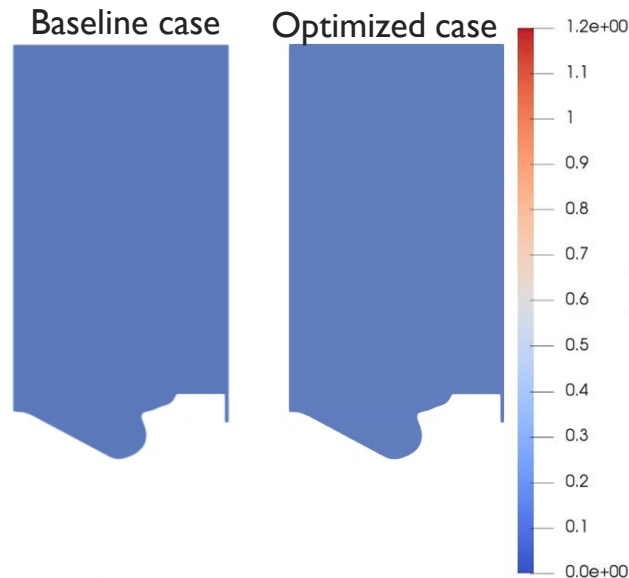
**Shape optimization and multiple loads can also be incorporated (ASME JERT-20-1594, SAE 2020-01-1313)**



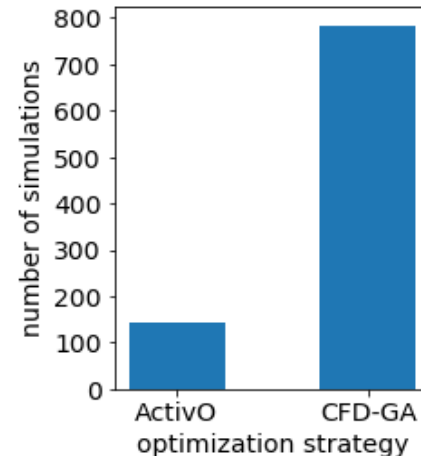
# OPTIMIZATION RESULTS



*\*ActivO was coupled with CONVERGE CFD solver*



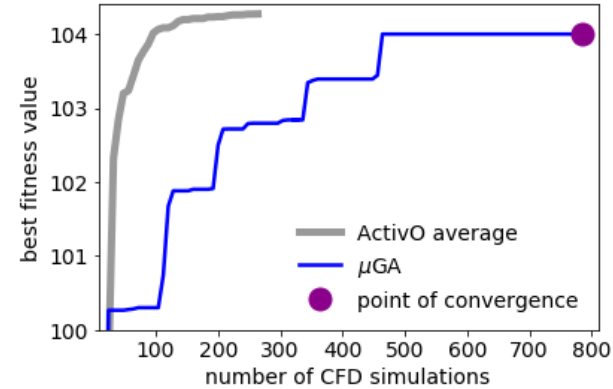
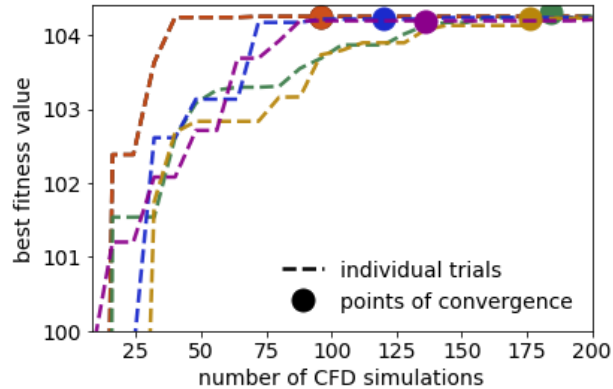
Number of simulations to achieve convergence



- ActivO lowers computational expense from 117,000 core hours to 20,000 core hours (over 80% decrease)
- ActivO shows 5-7X speedup (from 2 months to less than 2 weeks) over CONVERGE's  $\mu$ GA algorithm

# OPTIMIZATION RESULTS

- 8 CFD simulations/design iteration



- Number of CFD simulations it takes to reach a merit value of 104.0:
  - 88 for ActivO vs 464 for  $\mu$ GA
- Maximum merit value reached:
  - 104.14 for ActivO vs 104.0 for  $\mu$ GA

# CFD-ActivO DESIGN OPTIMIZATION

## Multi-parameter optimization of turbulent mixer geometry



4

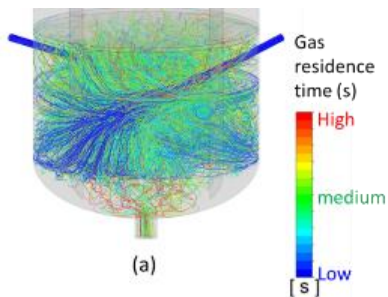


Automatic geometry morphing for the new design parameter sets obtained from ActivO

2

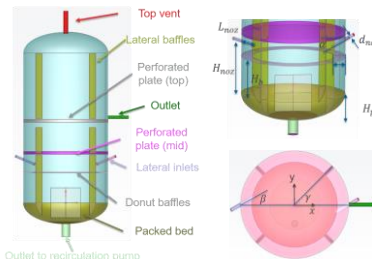
OpenFOAM®

- Automatic mesh generation and CFD case setup
- Multiphase L-E CFD simulations



1

Turbulent jet mixer geometry



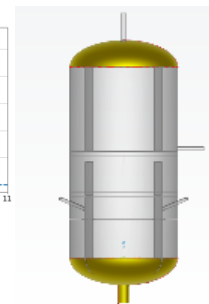
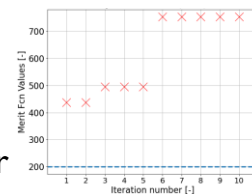
10-parameter design space

$$MF = \frac{\text{entrained \%}_{ref}}{\text{entrained \%}} + \frac{\text{mixing time}}{\text{mixing time}_{ref}} + f(\tau_{bub})$$

- Evaluate the performance of mixer designs (multi-parameter)
- Generate new promising sets of design parameters

ActivO

Active ML optimization tool



3

Asztalos et al., APS-DFD, 2023

Asztalos et al., APS-DFD, 2024

Argonne collaborators: Lorenzo Nocivelli, Katherine Asztalos  
Dow Collaborators: Chi-Wei Tsang, Mehdi Khalloufi

# SUMMARY

- An adaptive surrogate-based active ML optimization algorithm (ActivO) was developed that uses a weak learner for exploration and a strong learner for exploitation of the design space
- A mechanism for dynamically adjusting the balance between exploration and exploitation, as well as a method for assessing convergence was incorporated
- ActivO was also shown to converge significantly faster to the design optimum compared to state-of-the-art optimization algorithms; this leads to significant savings in the design time and associated computational cost
- Demonstration studies have been performed for optimization of IC engines and turbulent jet mixers wherein ActivO was coupled with CONVERGE and OpenFOAM CFD solvers, respectively
- The self-contained and automated ActivO software can be readily interfaced with any CFD code of interest for performing a wide range of design optimization campaigns

## Future work

- Incorporation of uncertainty-based robust optimization strategies to account for perturbations and/or manufacturing tolerances in the design parameters
- Parallelized workflows for large-scale optimization campaigns via coupling with SmartSim

# PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- O. Owoyele and P. Pal, “A novel machine learning-based optimization algorithm (ActivO) for accelerating simulation-driven engine design”, *Applied Energy*, Vol. 285, pp. 116455, 2021.
- O. Owoyele and P. Pal, “A novel active optimization approach for rapid and efficient design space exploration using ensemble machine learning”, *Journal of Energy Resources Technology*, Vol. 143(3), pp. 032307, 2020.
- K.J. Asztalos, L. Nocivelli, P. Pal, C-W. Tasang, and M. Khalloufi, “An end-to-end framework coupling CFD and active machine learning optimizer (ActivO) for rapid simulation-driven design of turbulent jet mixers”, *76<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the APS Division of Fluid Dynamics*, 2023.
- K.J. Asztalos, L. Nocivelli, P. Pal, C-W. Tasang, and M. Khalloufi, “Design optimization of turbulent jet mixers utilizing active machine learning optimization (ActivO)”, *77<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the APS Division of Fluid Dynamics*, 2024 (submitted).

THANK YOU

[pal@anl.gov](mailto:pal@anl.gov)