

Barracuda Virtual Reactor Users' Conference 2024 Advanced Training Workshop

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CPFD Software

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Outline

Example Case Overview

Barracuda Virtual Reactor Feature Highlights

10:30 – 11:00 am: Break

Basic Post-Processing

Advanced Post-Processing

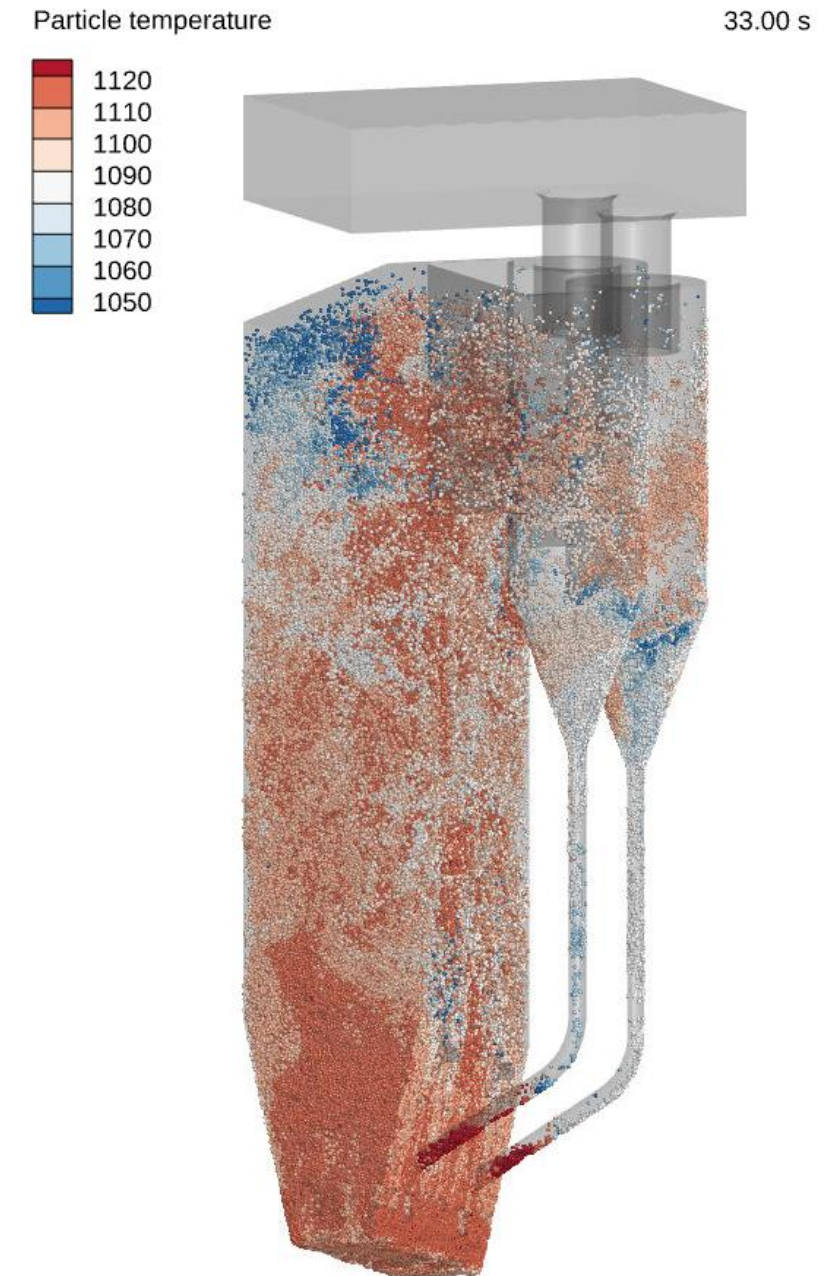
Q&A

Example Case Overview

Application Model: Industrial Scale Circulating Fluidized Bed Combustor was used as a starting point

Modifications made for this training workshop:

- Coarser grid definition to increase simulation speed
- Particle resolution distribution (PRD) enabled
- Flux planes added to analyze flow into and out of cyclone





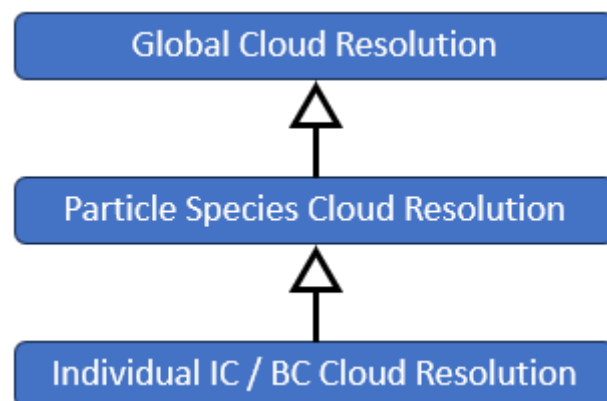
Reviewing an Already-Run Initial Case

Cloud Resolution Settings

Added in version 24.1

Inheritance-based model for specifying cloud resolution

- Easier to get consistent cloud resolution at ICs and BCs
- Simplified approach for setting up Virtual Reactor projects



Clouds per Cell Definition

In many simulations, *Clouds per Cell* is the most convenient basis for defining cloud resolution. It is based on the average cell volume in the system:

$$\text{Clouds per cell} = \frac{\text{Number of clouds at } \theta_p = 1}{\text{Cell of average volume}} \quad (19.1)$$

This definition is useful because it causes the cloud resolution to naturally scale with the cell resolution, i.e. models with higher real cell counts will automatically use higher numbers of clouds. A frequently used rule of thumb for determining a good value of *Clouds per cell* at an IC or BC is:

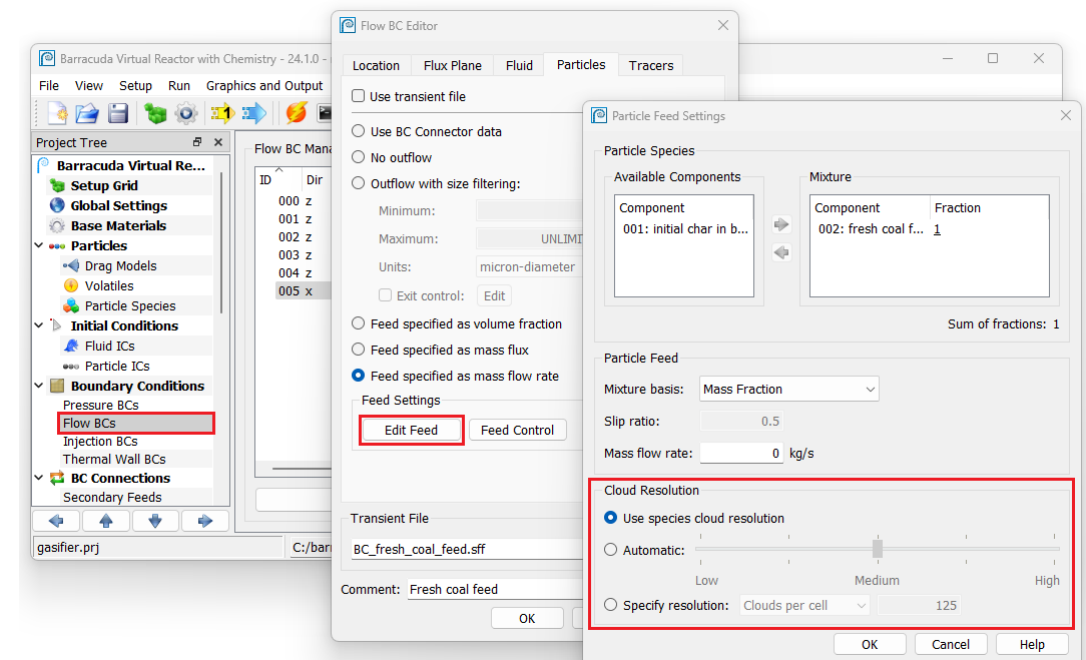
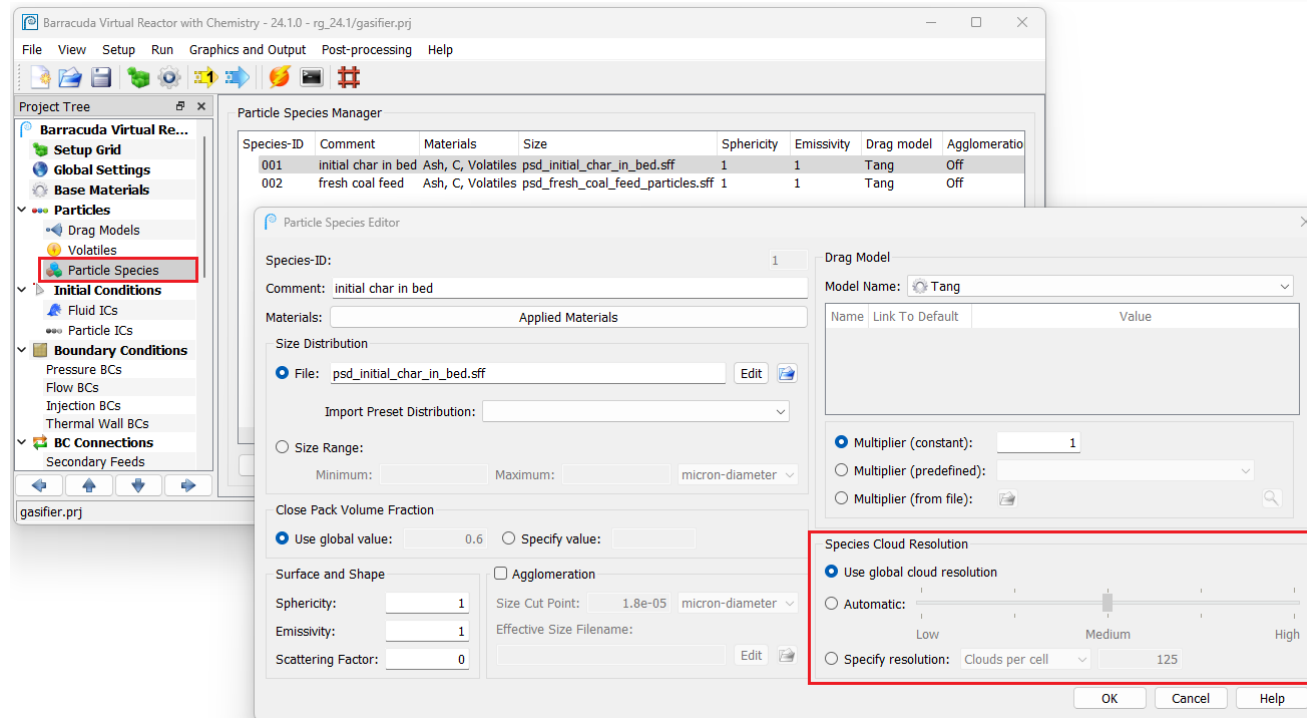
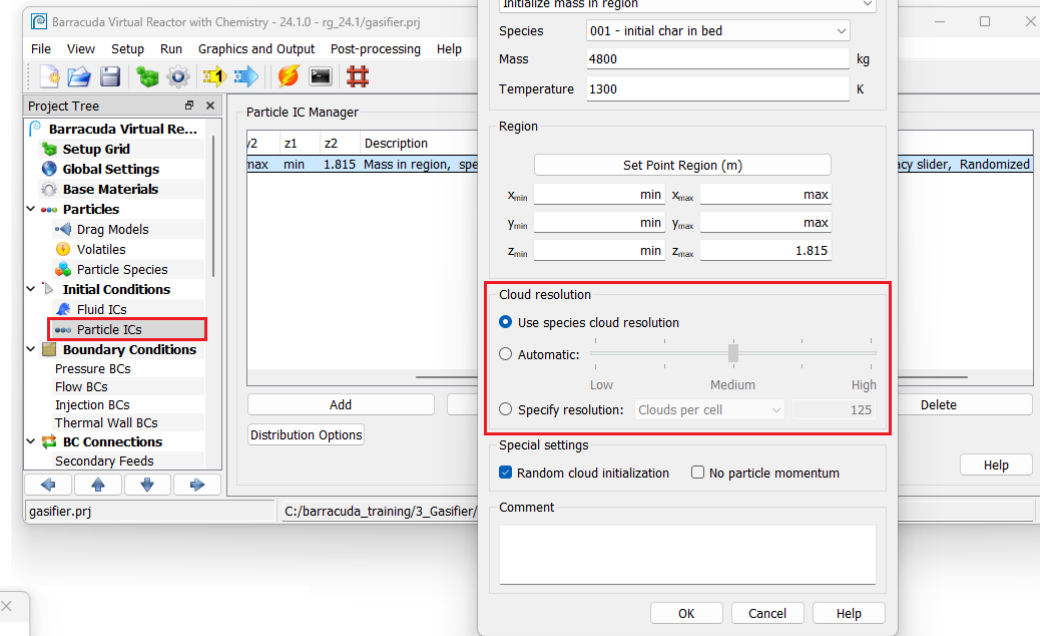
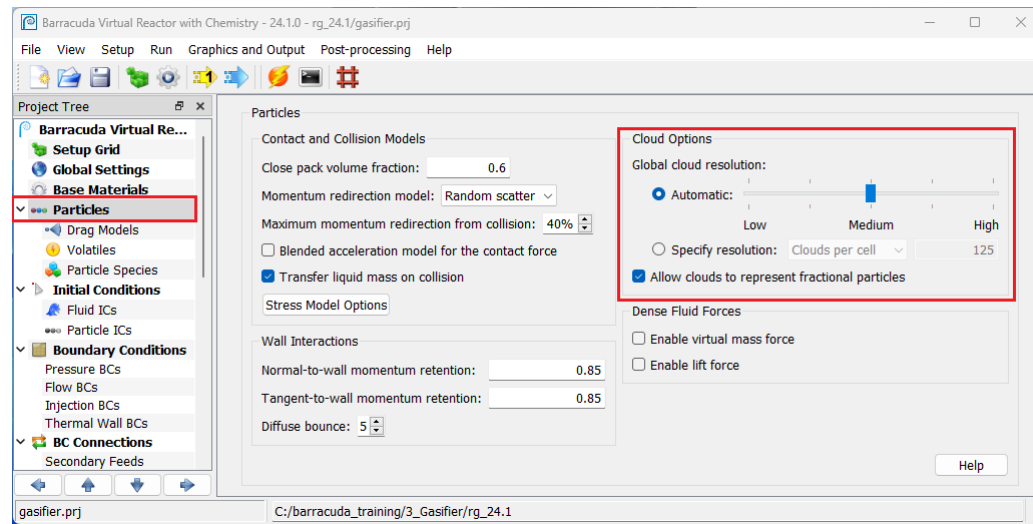
$$\text{Clouds per cell} = \frac{50}{\theta_p} \quad (19.2)$$

where:

θ_p is the volume fraction of particles at the IC or BC being specified

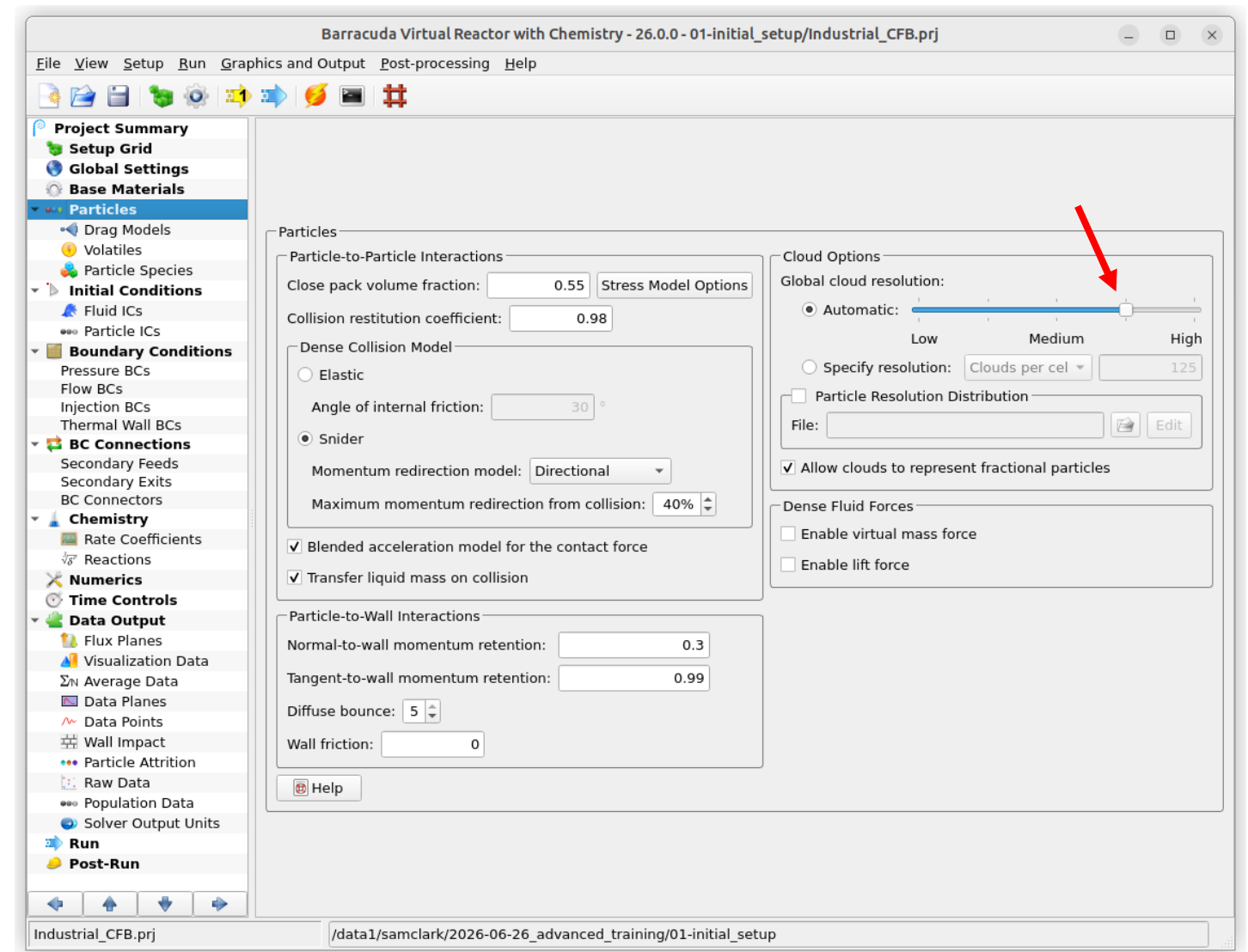
In all locations where the [Cloud Resolution](#) GUI pattern is used, the *Automatic* slider bar levels correspond to the following values of *Clouds per cell*:

Slider Bar Setting	Clouds per Cell Value	Corresponding θ_p in (19.2)
Low	50	1
Low-Medium	80	0.625
Medium	125	0.4
Medium-High	250	0.2
High	1000	0.05



Cloud Resolution Settings for Current Example

Set to medium-high in the Particles main window because bed is fairly shallow and fluidization regime is turbulent



Particle Resolution Distribution (PRD) Settings

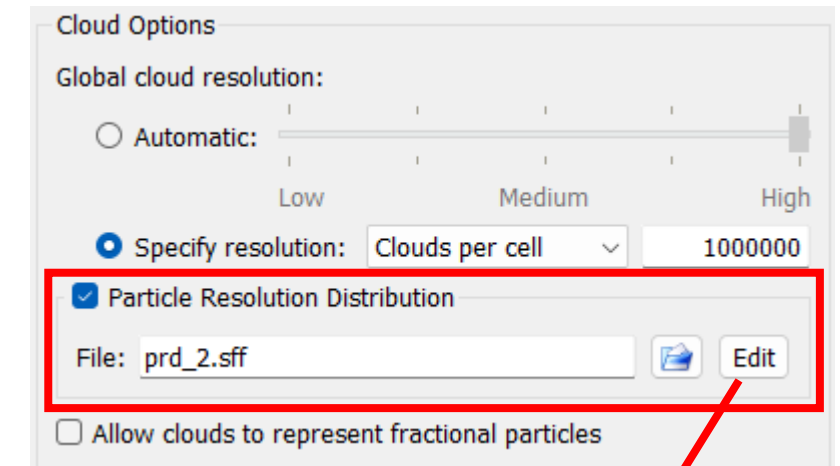
Added in version 26.0

Enables control over how clouds are allocated based on particle size

Most useful for particle species with wide particle size distributions (PSDs)

When PRD is used:

- Split factor controls relative number of clouds used for corresponding particle size
- PSDs are not changed
- Total number of clouds is not changed



Cloud Options

Global cloud resolution:

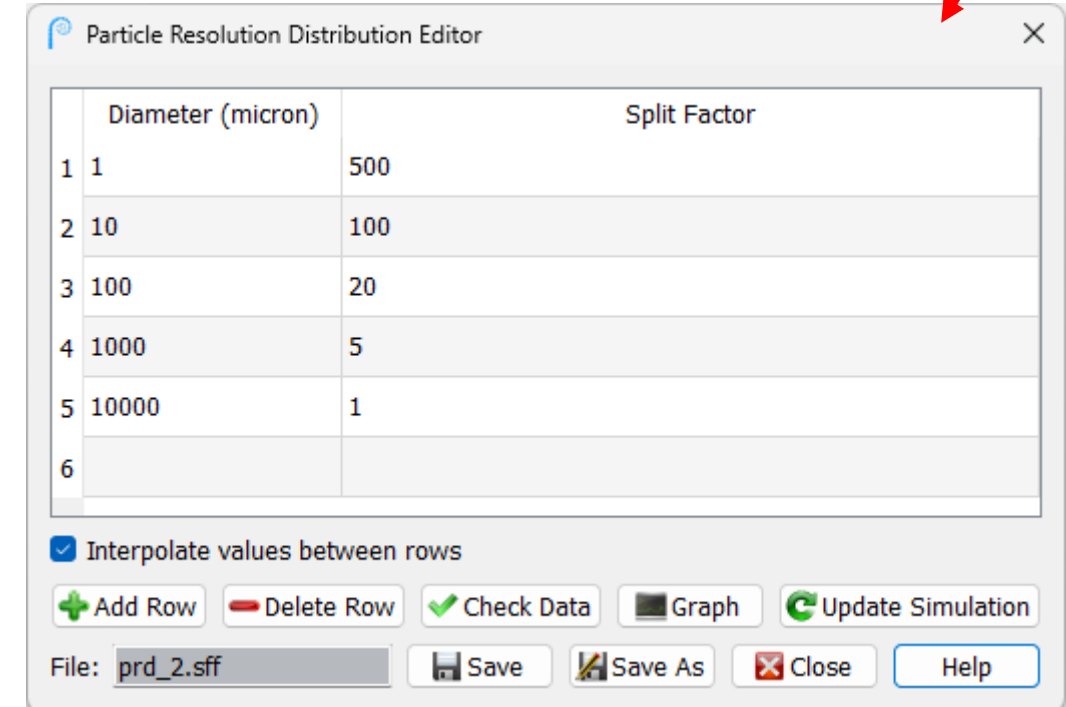
☐ Automatic:
High
Low

☒ Specify resolution: Clouds per cell 1000000

☒ Particle Resolution Distribution

File: prd_2.sff Edit

☐ Allow clouds to represent fractional particles



Particle Resolution Distribution Editor

	Diameter (micron)	Split Factor
1	1	500
2	10	100
3	100	20
4	1000	5
5	10000	1
6		

☒ Interpolate values between rows

+ Add Row
- Delete Row
✓ Check Data
■ Graph
↻ Update Simulation

File: prd_2.sff
Save
Save As
Close
Help

Barracuda Virtual Reactor with Chemistry - 26.0.0 - 01-initial_setup/Industrial_CFB.prj

File View Setup Run Graphics and Output Post-processing Help

Project Summary

- Setup Grid
- Global Settings
- Base Materials
- Particles**
 - Drag Models
 - Volatiles
 - Particle Species
- Initial Conditions
 - Fluid ICs
 - Particle ICs
- Boundary Conditions
 - Pressure BCs
 - Flow BCs
 - Injection BCs
 - Thermal Wall BCs
- BC Connections
 - Secondary Feeds
 - Secondary Exits
 - BC Connectors
- Chemistry
 - Rate Coefficients
 - Reactions
- Numerics
- Time Controls
- Data Output
 - Flux Planes
 - Visualization Data
 - Average Data
 - Data Planes
 - Data Points
 - Wall Impact
 - Particle Attrition
 - Raw Data
 - Population Data
 - Solver Output Units
- Run
- Post-Run

Particle Species Manager

Species-ID	Comment	Materials	Size	Sphericity	Emissivity	Drag model	Agglomeration
001	Coal	ASH, C, CaO, H2O, N, S, Volatile	0.35 to 0.35 mm-diameter	1	1	Radl-Sundaresan	Off
002	Ash	ASH, CaO	fly_and_bed_ash.sff	1	1	Radl-Sundaresan	Off

Particle Species Editor

Species-ID: 2

Comment: Ash

Materials: Applied Materials

Size Distribution

☒ File: fly_and_bed_ash.sff [Edit]

Import Preset Distribution: [Dropdown]

☐ Size Range: Minimum: [] Maximum: [] micron-diameter [v]

Close Pack Volume Fraction: ☐

Particle Resolution Distribution Editor

	Diameter (micron)	Split Factor
1	5	20
2	100	10
3	400	5
4	3000	1
5		

☒ Interpolate values between rows

+ Add Row - Delete Row ✓ Check Data [Graph] [Update Simulation]

File: ash_prd.sff [Save] [Save As] [Close] [Help]

Drag Model

Model Name: Radl-Sundaresan

Name	Link To Default	Value
------	-----------------	-------

Drag Multiplier

☒ Constant: 1

☐ Pre-defined: [Dropdown]

☐ File: [] [Edit]

Species Cloud Resolution

☐ Use global cloud resolution

☒ Automatic: [Slider: Low to High] (Arrow points to slider)

☐ Specify resolution: Clouds per cell [125]

☒ Particle Resolution Distribution

File: ash_prd.sff [Edit] (Arrow points to file name)

[Cancel] [OK]

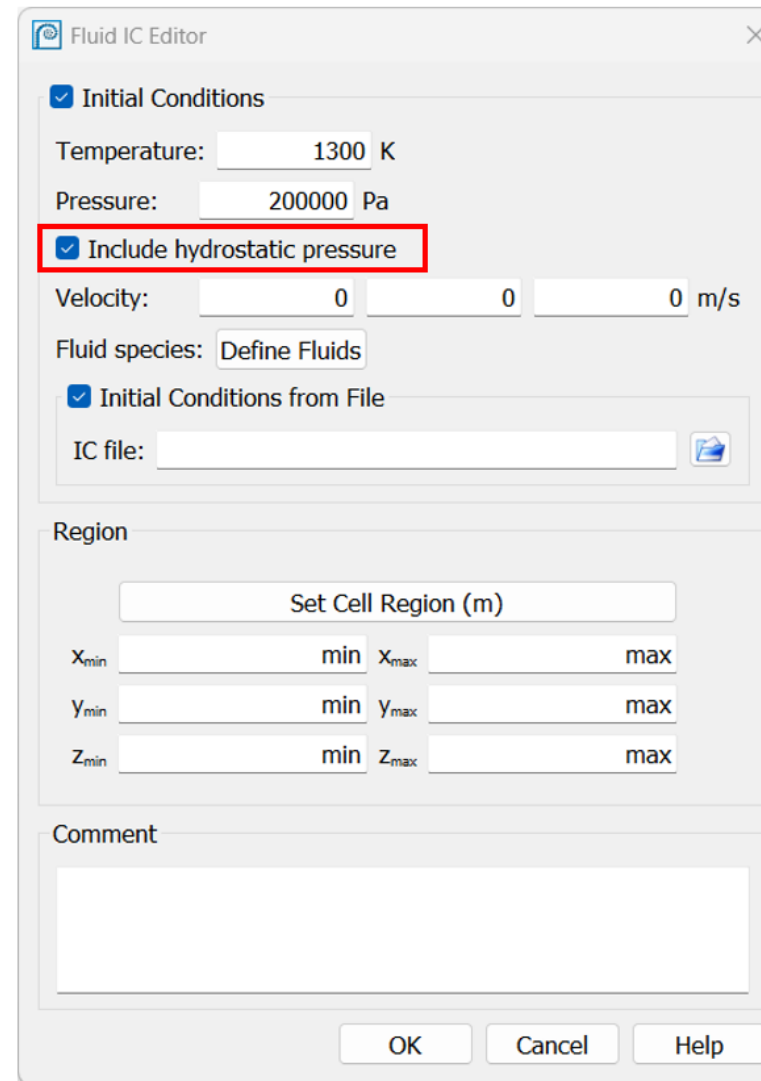
Hydrostatic Pressure Settings for Pressure BC and Fluid IC

Added in release 25.0

For Fluid ICs enabling hydrostatic pressure can help to avoid large initial in- and out-flows of fluid

For Pressure BCs enabling hydrostatic pressure can help to avoid artificial recirculation at boundaries that are not normal to gravity

Highly recommended for liquid domain simulations



Fluid IC Editor

☒ Initial Conditions

Temperature: 1300 K

Pressure: 200000 Pa

☒ Include hydrostatic pressure

Velocity: 0 0 0 m/s

Fluid species: Define Fluids

☒ Initial Conditions from File

IC file:

Region

Set Cell Region (m)

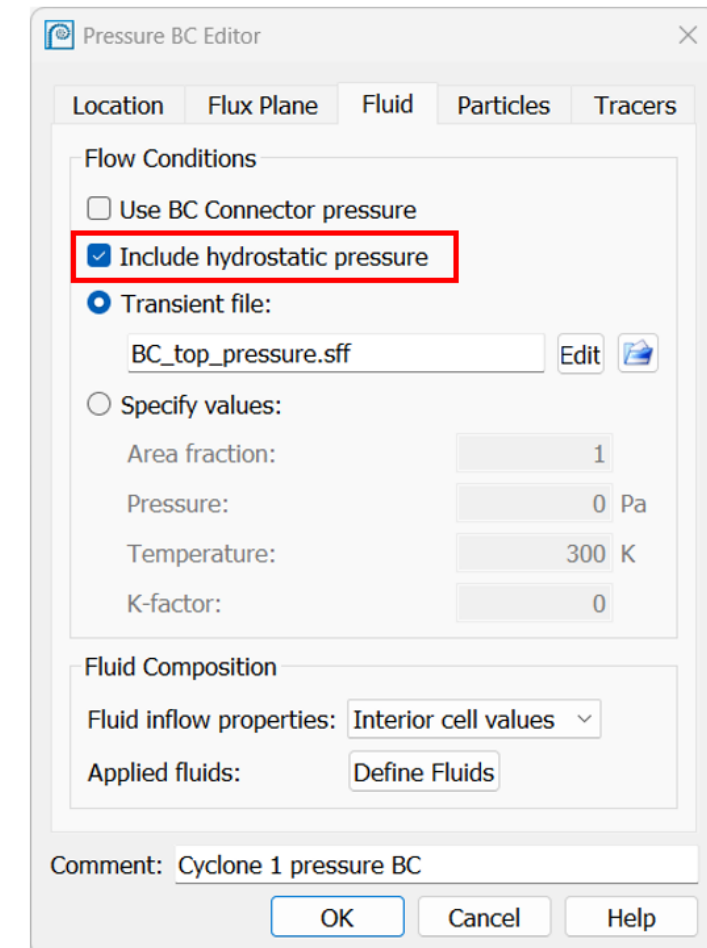
X_{min} min X_{max} max

Y_{min} min Y_{max} max

Z_{min} min Z_{max} max

Comment

OK Cancel Help



Pressure BC Editor

Location Flux Plane Fluid Particles Tracers

Flow Conditions

☐ Use BC Connector pressure

☒ Include hydrostatic pressure

☒ Transient file:

BC_top_pressure.sff Edit 

☐ Specify values:

Area fraction: 1

Pressure: 0 Pa

Temperature: 300 K

K-factor: 0

Fluid Composition

Fluid inflow properties: Interior cell values 

Applied fluids: Define Fluids

Comment: Cyclone 1 pressure BC

OK Cancel Help

Thermal Wall BC with Heat Transfer Resistance

Added in release 24.1

Allows specification of outside ambient temperature in combination with heat transfer resistance

$$R = \frac{\Delta T}{\phi_q}$$

where:

R is the resistance to heat transfer (R-value) in units of $\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{K} / \text{W}$

ΔT is the temperature difference between the thermal wall surface and the external fluid in units of K

ϕ_q is the heat flux through the thermal wall in units of W / m^2

Example of Calculating a Thermal Wall BC Resistance Value

Continuing with the example of an FCC regenerator, there are two dominant components of resistance as heat is transferred from the inside of the vessel to the ambient air:

1. **Conduction through the vessel wall:** let us assume, for this example, that the vessel is constructed of steel and lined on the inside with 4 inches (0.1 m) of refractory. It is often acceptable to neglect the thermal resistance of the steel because it is typically much lower than the thermal resistance of refractory. Assuming a refractory thermal conductivity of $2 \text{ W}/(\text{m} \cdot \text{K})$, the conductive *Resistance* of the wall material itself can be calculated as:

$$R_{\text{conduction}} = \frac{L}{k} = \frac{0.1 \text{ m}}{2 \text{ W}/(\text{m} \cdot \text{K})} = 0.05 \frac{\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{K}}{\text{W}} \quad (19.4)$$

where:

L is the thickness of the refractory in units of m

k is the thermal conductivity of the refractory in units of $\text{W}/(\text{m} \cdot \text{K})$

2. **Convection to the ambient air:** for a vessel with primarily vertical wall surfaces, and assuming no wind movement, an R-value can be obtained from reference text books or online sources such as [R-value \(insulation\) Sample Values](#):

$$R_{\text{convection}} = 0.12 \frac{\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{K}}{\text{W}} \quad (19.5)$$

Analogous to electrical resistances in series, these two components of heat transfer resistance can be summed to calculate the total thermal resistance value to be used in *Virtual Reactor*:

$$R = R_{\text{conduction}} + R_{\text{convection}} = 0.17 \frac{\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{K}}{\text{W}} \quad (19.6)$$

https://cpfd-software.com/user-manual/release_guide_24.1.0.html#rg-thermal-wall-bc-updates

Oka Erosion Wall Impact Model

Added in release 25.0

Based on papers published by Oka et al

- <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wear.2005.01.039>
- <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wear.2005.01.040>

Quantitative calculation of wall material loss due to particle impact (kg/m²/year)

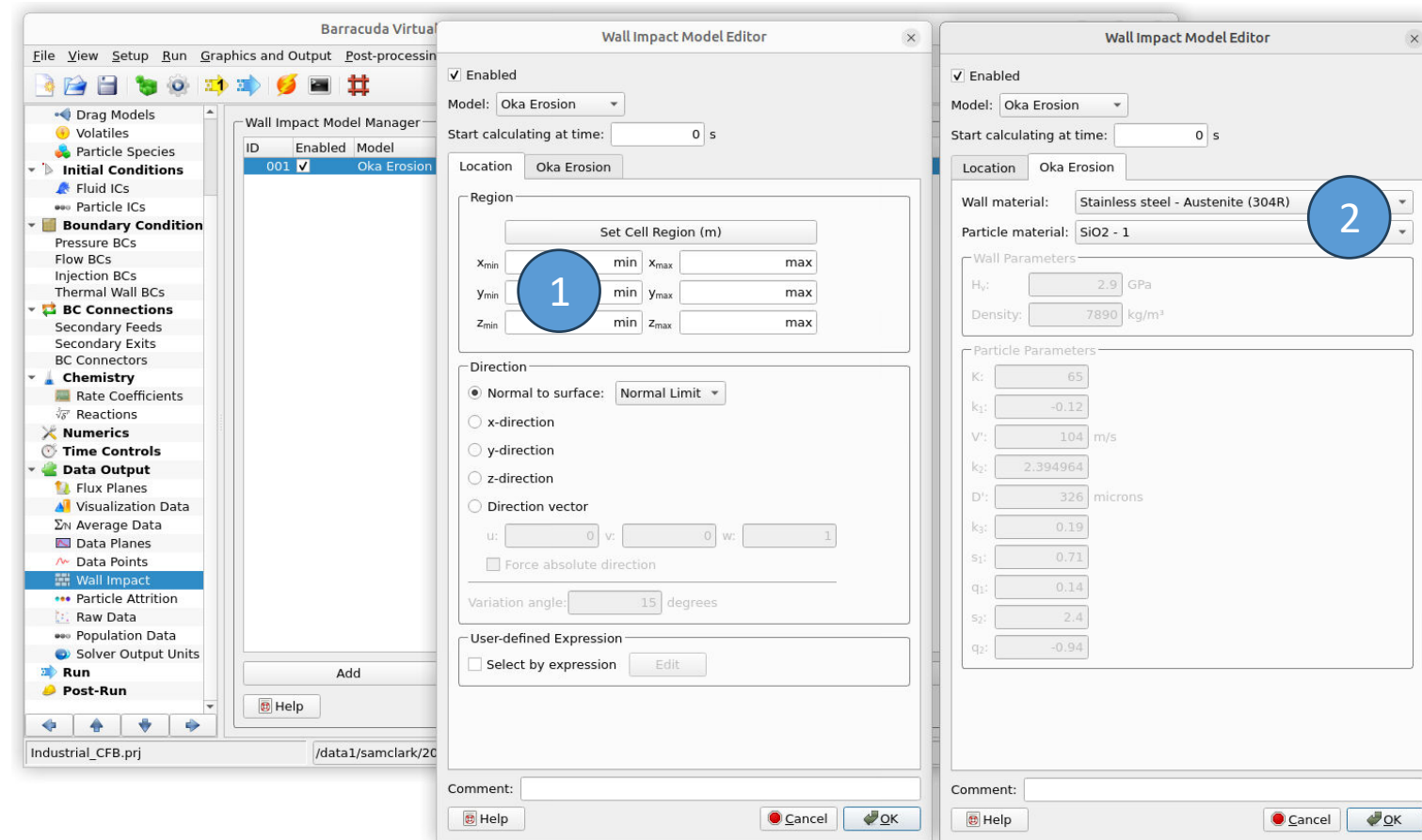
Selection of pre-defined wall and particle materials is available, or user-defined parameters can be entered

The screenshot shows the 'Wall Impact Model Editor' dialog box. It has a title bar with a close button. The 'Enabled' checkbox is checked. The 'Model' dropdown is set to 'Oka Erosion'. The 'Start calculating at time' field is set to '0 s'. There are two tabs: 'Location' and 'Oka Erosion', with 'Oka Erosion' being the active tab. Under 'Oka Erosion', there are two dropdown menus: 'Wall material' set to 'Stainless steel - Austenite (304R)' and 'Particle material' set to 'SiO2 - 1'. Below these are two sections: 'Wall Parameters' and 'Particle Parameters'. 'Wall Parameters' includes 'H_v' (2.9 GPa) and 'Density' (7890 kg/m³). 'Particle Parameters' includes 'K' (65), 'k₁' (-0.12), 'V' (104 m/s), 'k₂' (2.394964), 'D' (326 microns), 'k₃' (0.19), 's₁' (0.71), 'q₁' (0.14), 's₂' (2.4), and 'q₂' (-0.94). At the bottom, there is a 'Comment' text field, a 'Help' button, a 'Cancel' button, and an 'OK' button.

Wall Impact Model Settings

The initial case was configured with a single Wall Impact model, using built-in parameters for the Oka Erosion model

1. Location tab: spatial region was set to min-max in all directions
2. Oka Erosion tab: wall material was set to Stainless steel – Austenite (304R), particle material was set to SiO2 - 1



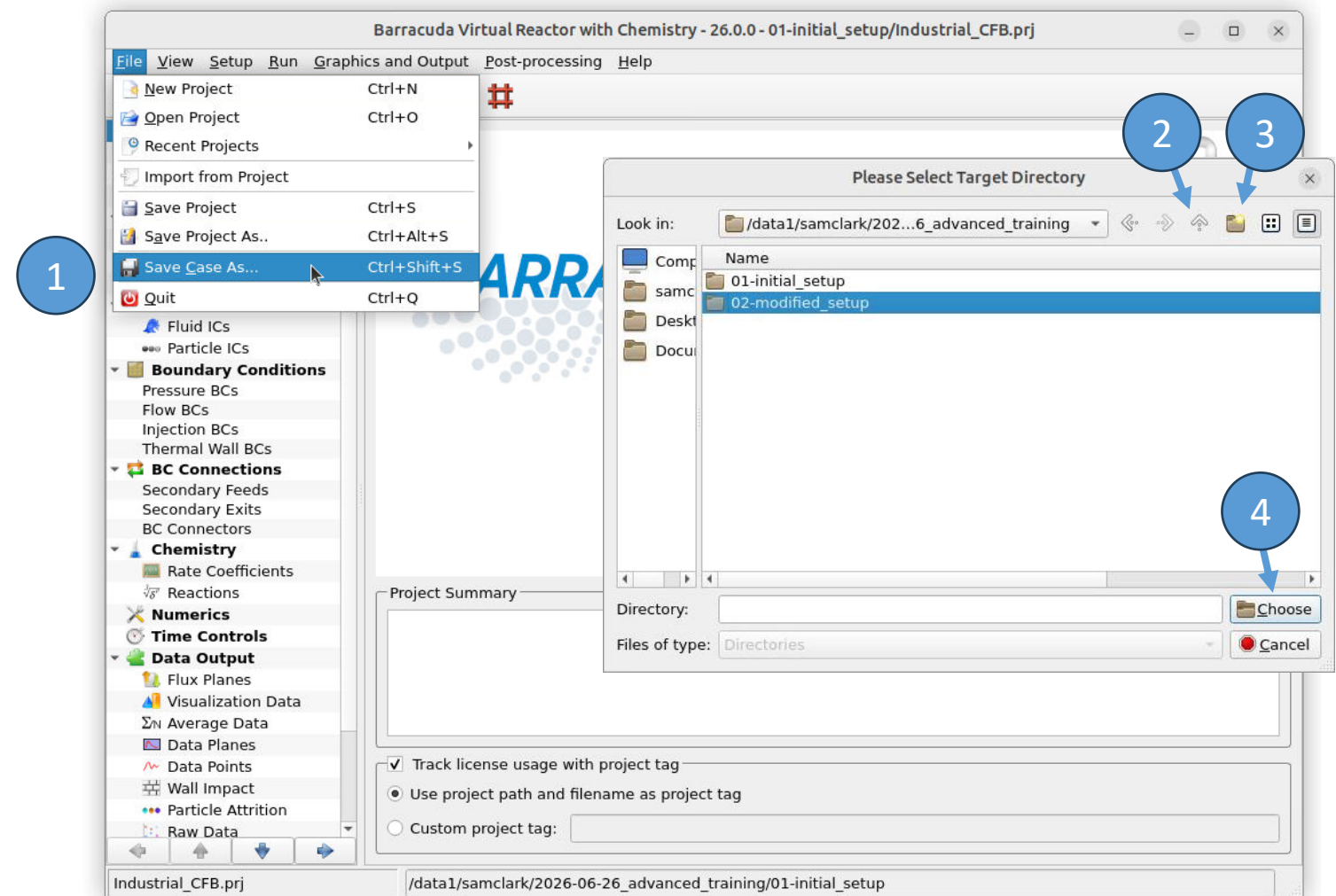


Starting a New Case from the Endpoint of the Initial Case

Save Case As...

Easiest way to clone an existing case when you want to make a few changes and start a new run

1. File → Save Case As...
2. Go up a directory
3. Create new directory named: 02-modified_setup
4. Choose



Include Final IC_#.##### from Initial case

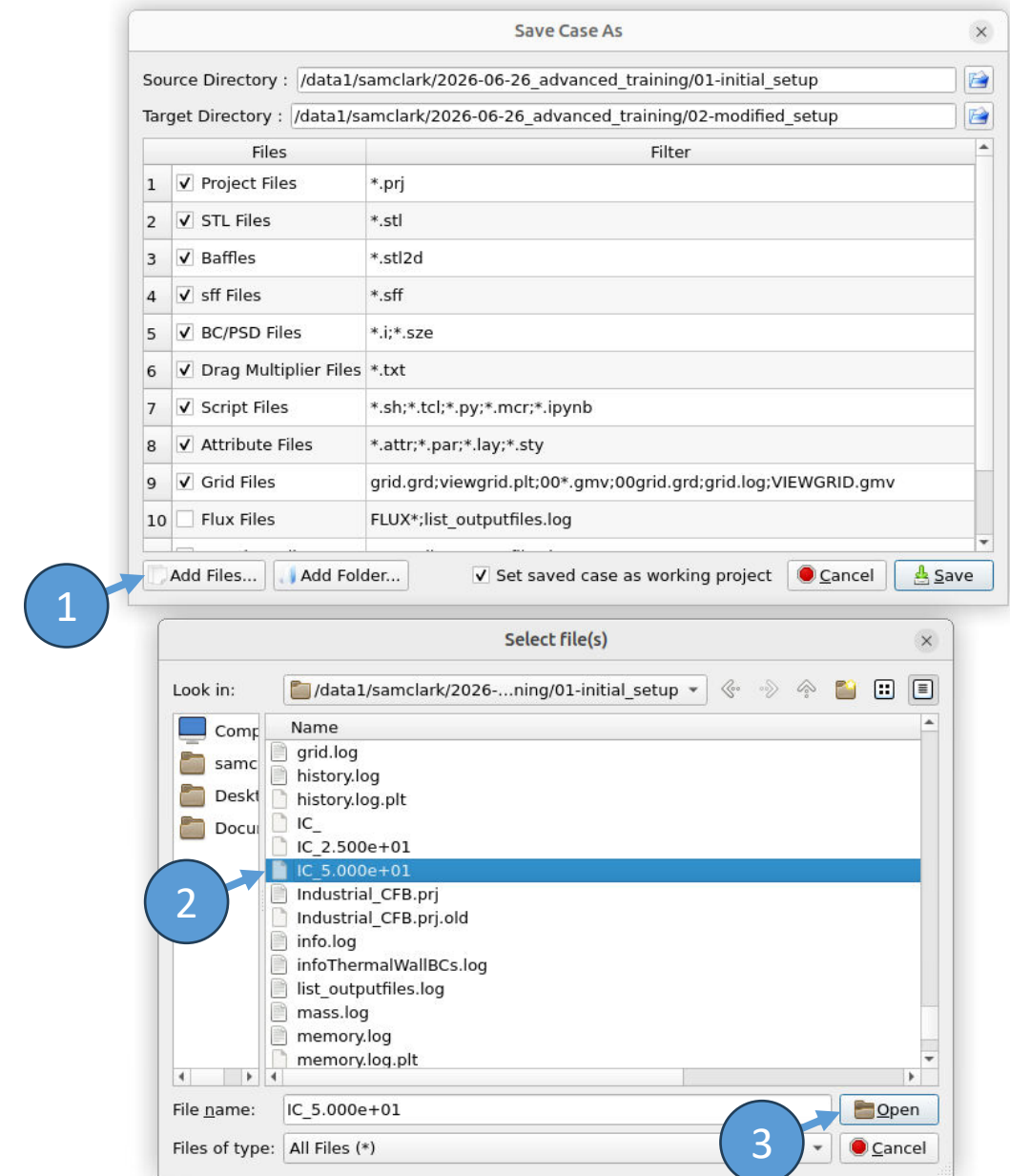
By default, rows 1-6 are selected

For this exercise, also select rows 7-9

In our new run, we want to initialize the fluid and particle phases based on the final state of the initial run

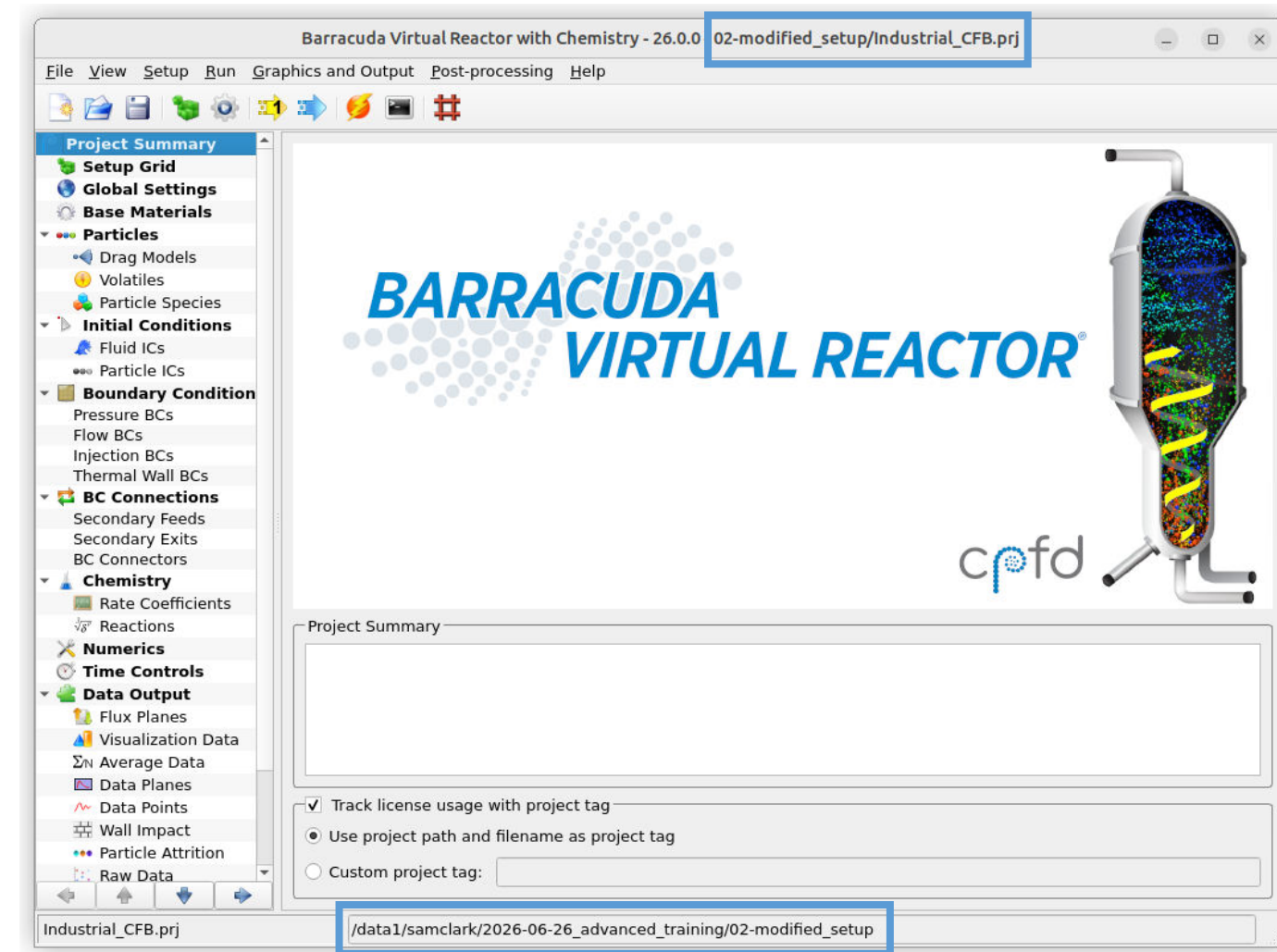
1. Add Files...
2. Select IC_5.000e+01
3. Open

Click “Save” to copy the selected files to the new case directory



Save Case As... Automatically Opens New Project

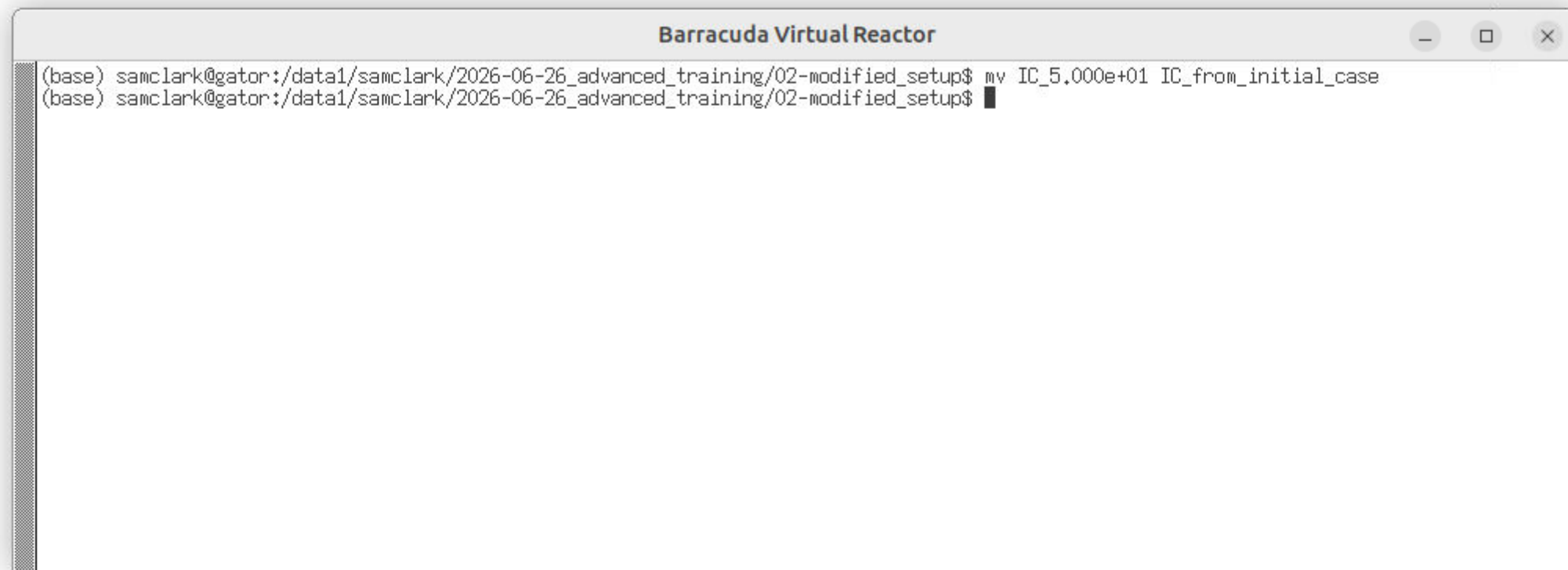
Be aware that, by default, the newly created project is automatically opened when you use Save Case As...



Rename IC_5.000e+01

To avoid confusion, it is best practice to rename the IC file from the initial case

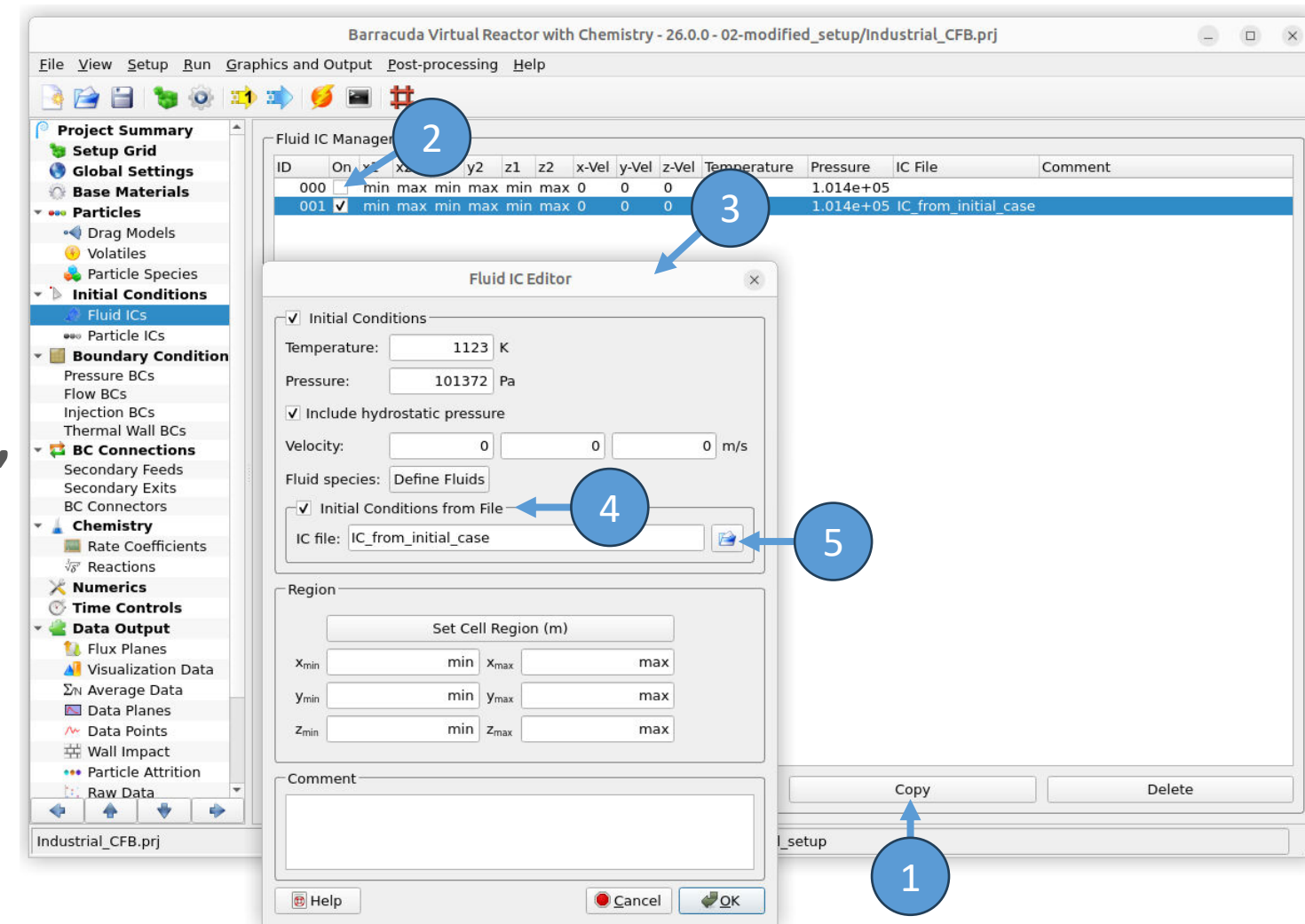
Open a terminal and run the following “mv” command:



```
(base) samclark@gator:/data1/samclark/2026-06-26_advanced_training/02-modified_setup$ mv IC_5.000e+01 IC_from_initial_case
(base) samclark@gator:/data1/samclark/2026-06-26_advanced_training/02-modified_setup$
```

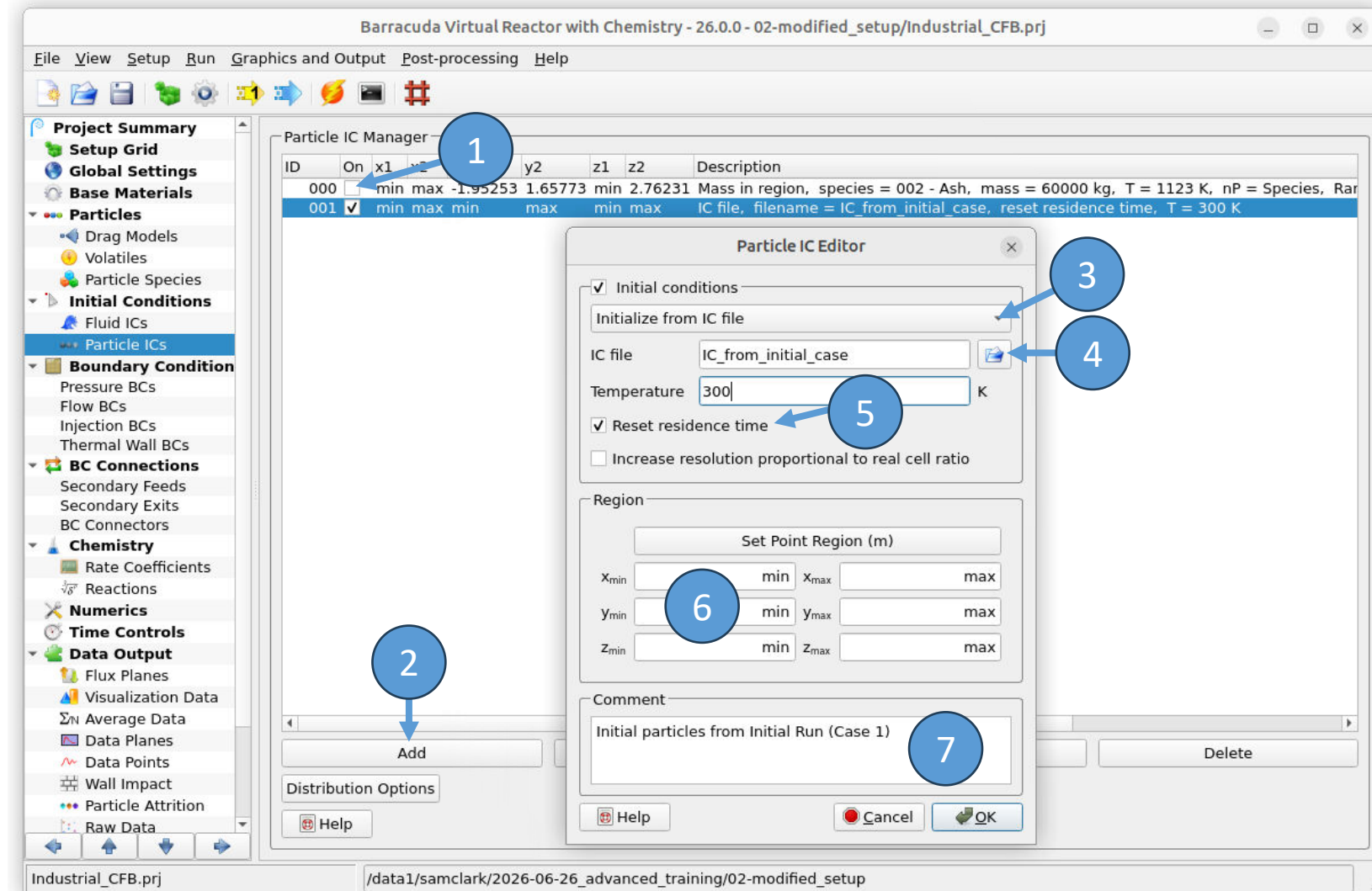
Define Fluid IC Using Final IC File from Case 1

1. Copy Fluid IC 000
2. Disable Fluid IC 000
3. Edit Fluid IC 001
4. Enable “Initial Conditions from File”
5. Click the folder icon and browse for IC_from_initial_case
 1. Verify that you are in the “02-...” directory



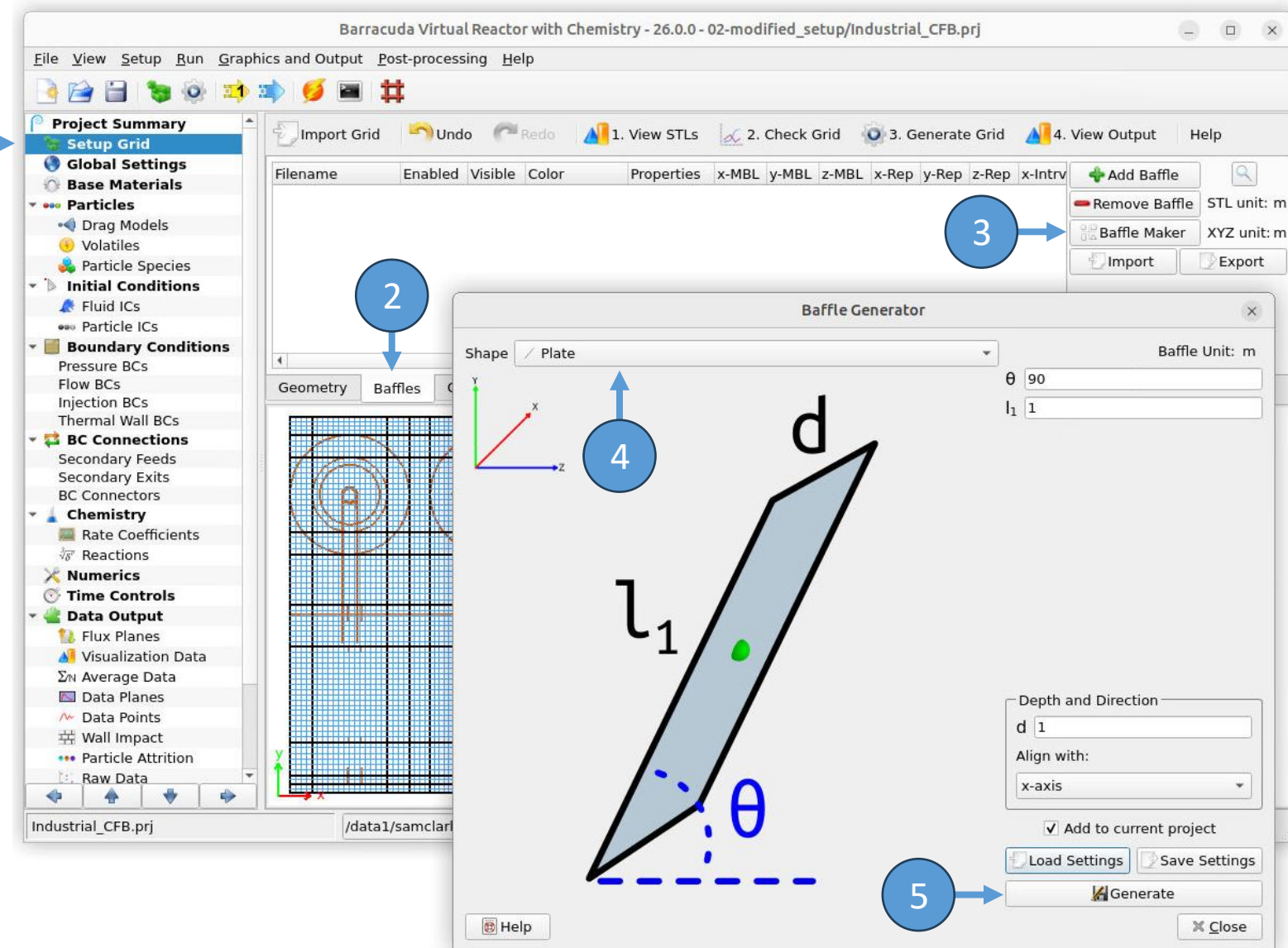
Define Particle IC Using Final IC File from Case 1

1. Disable Particle IC 000
2. Click “Add”
3. Select “Initialize from IC file”
4. Browse to select IC_from_initial_case
5. Enable “Reset residence time”
6. Set x-, y-, and z- limits to min and max
7. Add a comment



Add a Baffle with Particle Filtering by Size

1. Setup Grid
2. Baffles tab
3. Baffle Maker
4. Shape: Plate
5. Generate
 - Use name: plate_baffle.stl2d
 - Save
 - Ok



Position Baffle Near Top Outlet

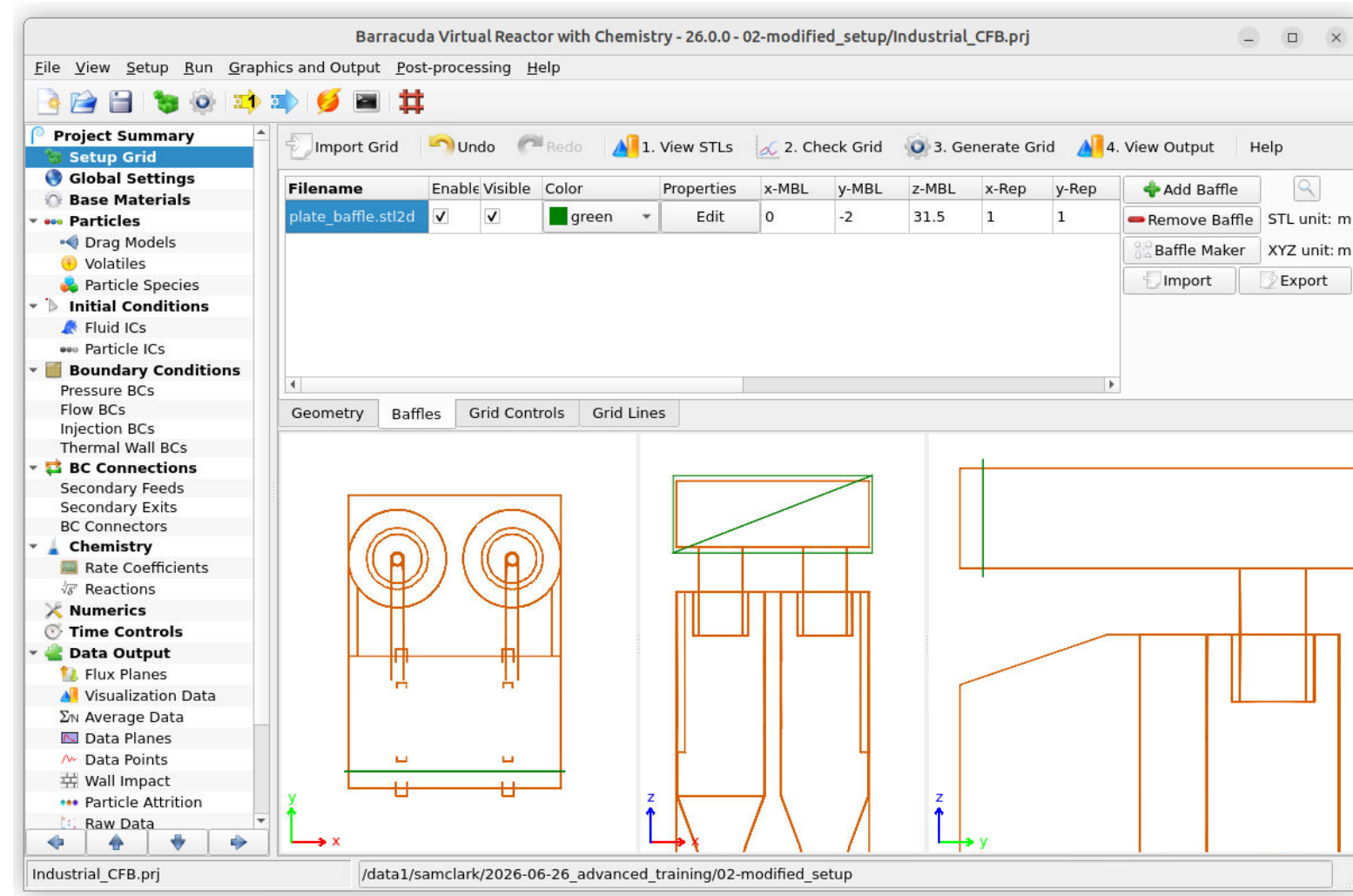
Baffle is initially centered at (0,0,0)

Grid Controls → Advanced Options:

- Pixel width for major grid lines = 0
- Pixel width for minor grid lines = 0

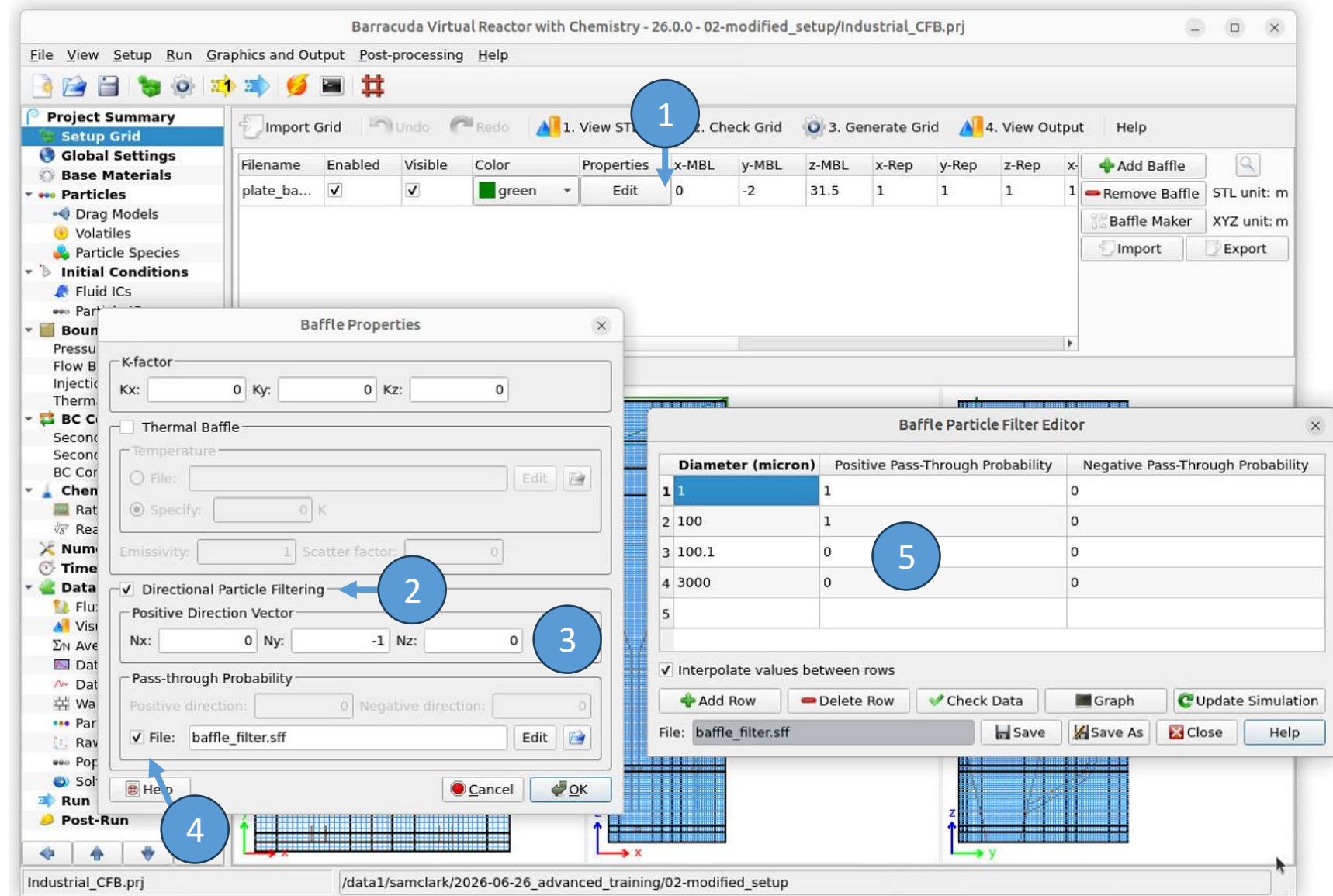
Baffle position settings:

- x-Rot = 90
- z-MBL = 31.5
- y-MBL = -2
- y-Scale = 3.5
- x-Scale = 9



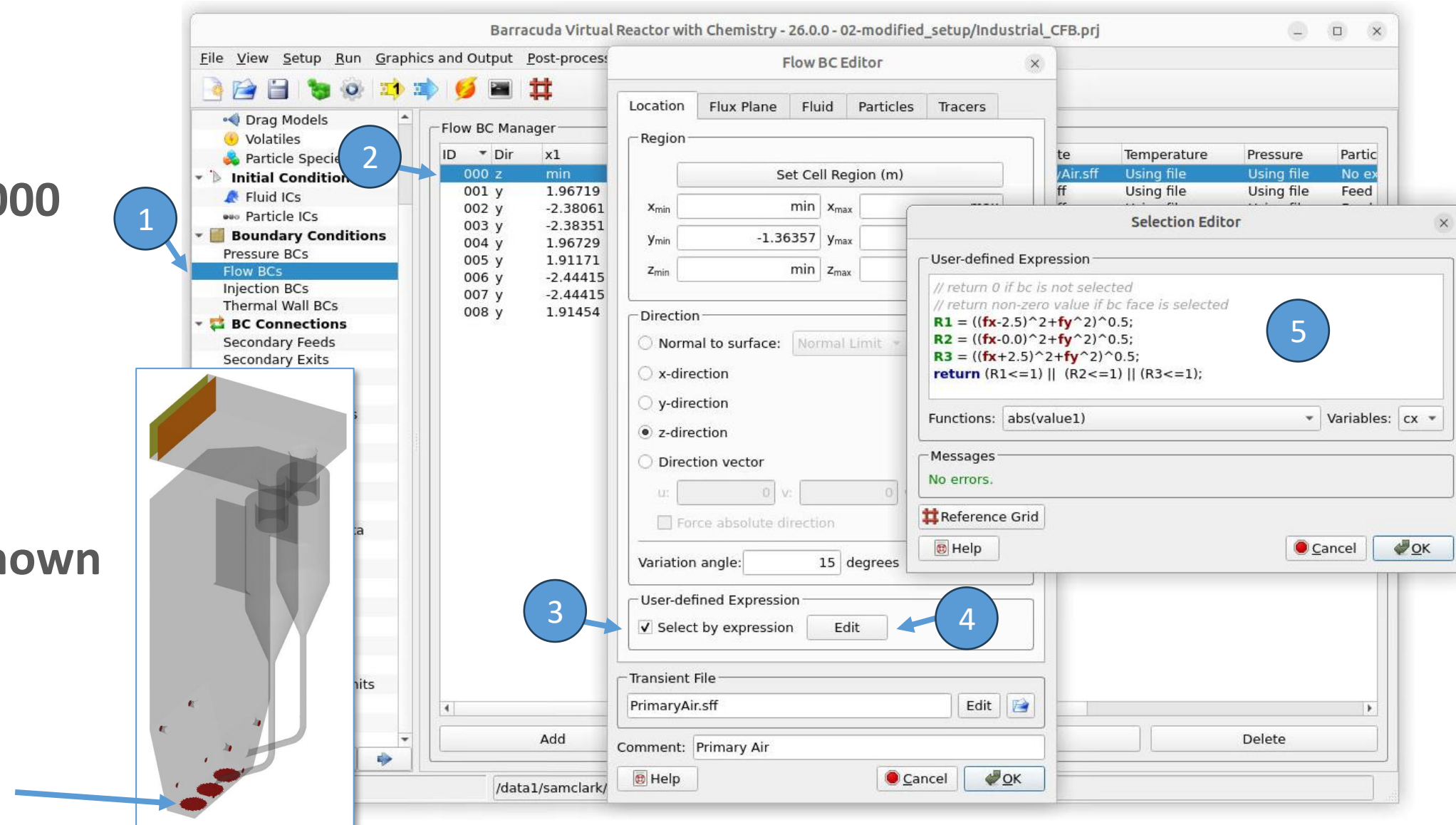
Set Baffle Filtering Properties

1. Edit
2. Directional Particle Filtering
3. $N_x = 0$, $N_y = -1$, $N_z = 0$
4. Enable "File" option
5. Set filter parameters as shown



User-defined Expression (UDE) for Flow BC

1. Flow BCs
2. Edit Flow BC ID 000
3. Enable Select by expression
4. Edit
5. Enter the UDE shown

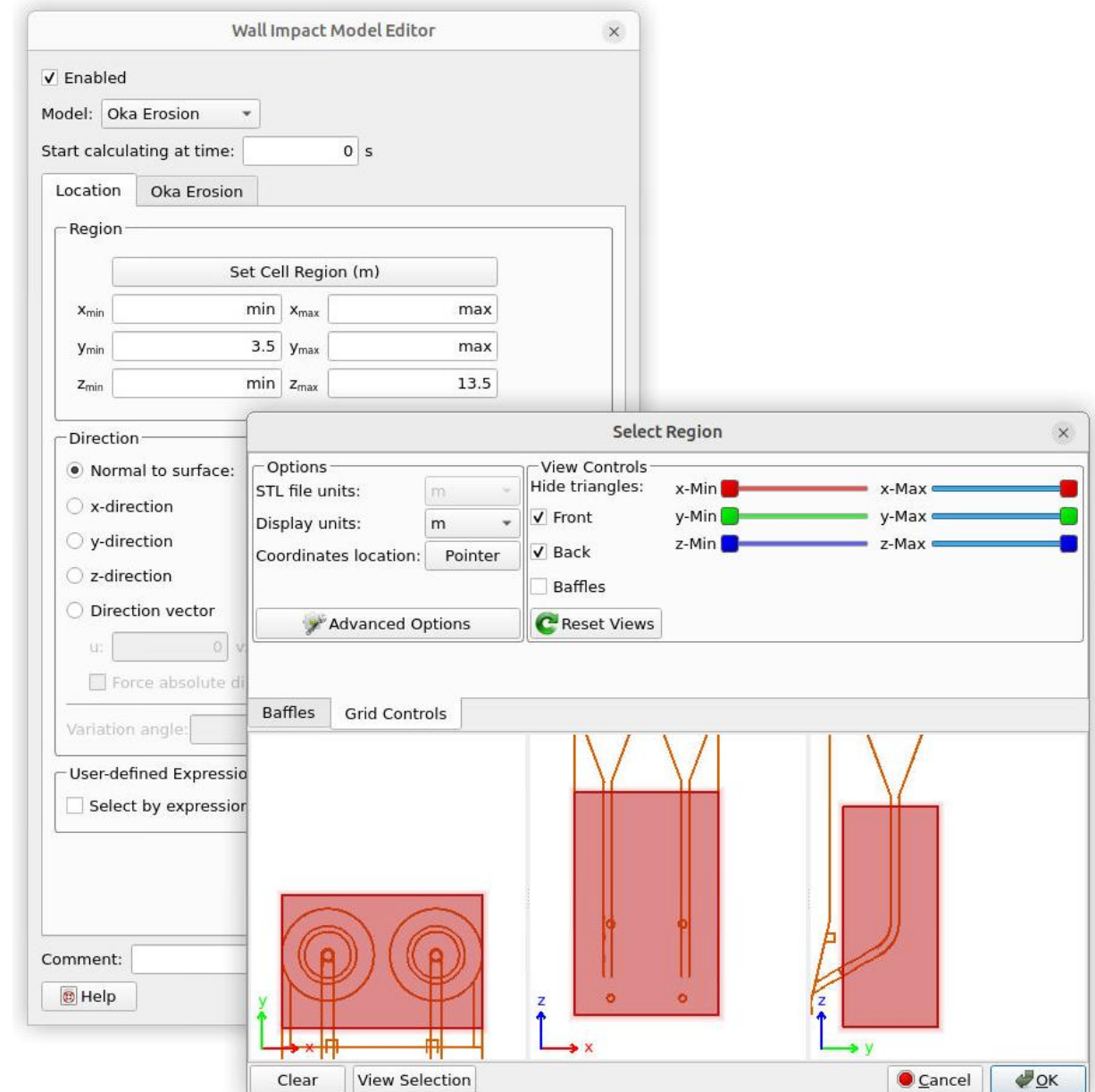


Wall Impact Model: Select Specific Spatial Regions

In systems with different materials present, it can be useful to isolate wall impact models to specific regions of space

For this example, let's assume the only bare steel surface is the inside of the cyclone diplegs

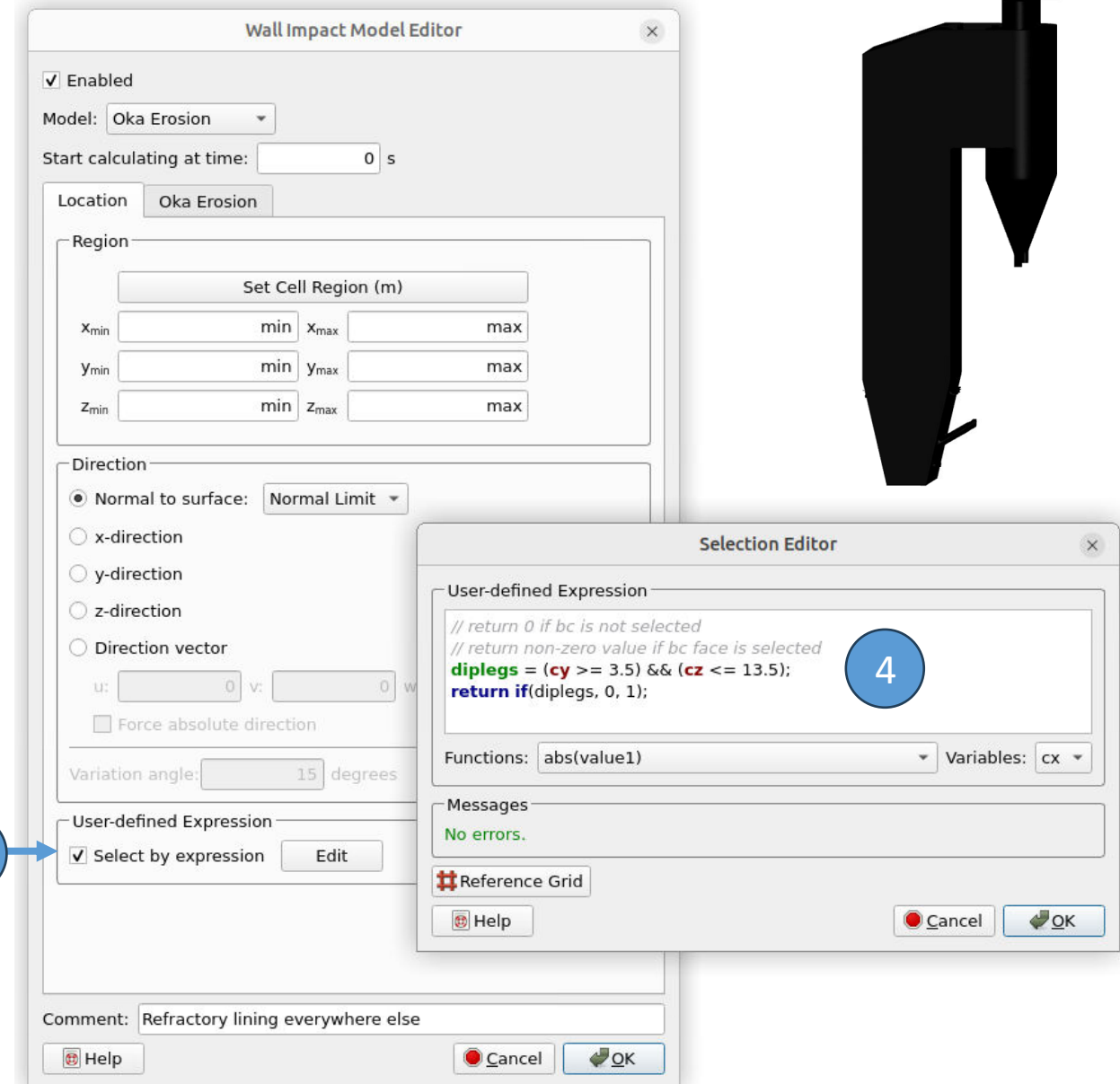
1. Edit 001
2. Locations tab: use "Select Region" dialog to select cyclone diplegs



Wall Impact Model: UDE to Select Spatial Regions

Further, let's assume that all other walls are refractory lined. We can use a UDE to select all walls that are *not* overlapping the region of the cyclone diplegs

1. Copy 001
2. Edit 002
3. Location tab → Enable User-defined Expression
4. Enter the expression shown



Wall Impact Model: Custom Parameters for Oka Erosion

Custom Oka Erosion parameters can be used to represent refractory-lined walls. For this example, we will use parameters based on Mirzaei et al., 2023 (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.powtec.2023.118424>)

1. Oka Erosion tab → User-defined for both Wall material and Particle material
2. Enter the values shown

Wall Impact Model Editor

☒ Enabled

Model: Oka Erosion

Start calculating at time: 0 s

Location: Oka Erosion

Wall material: User-defined (1)

Particle material: User-defined (1)

Wall Parameters

Hv: 18 GPa

Density: 2000 kg/m³

Particle Parameters

K: 65

k₁: -0.12

V': 104 m/s

k₂: 2.394964

D': 326 microns

k₃: 0.19

s₁: 4.7

q₁: 0

s₂: 0.6

q₂: 0 (2)

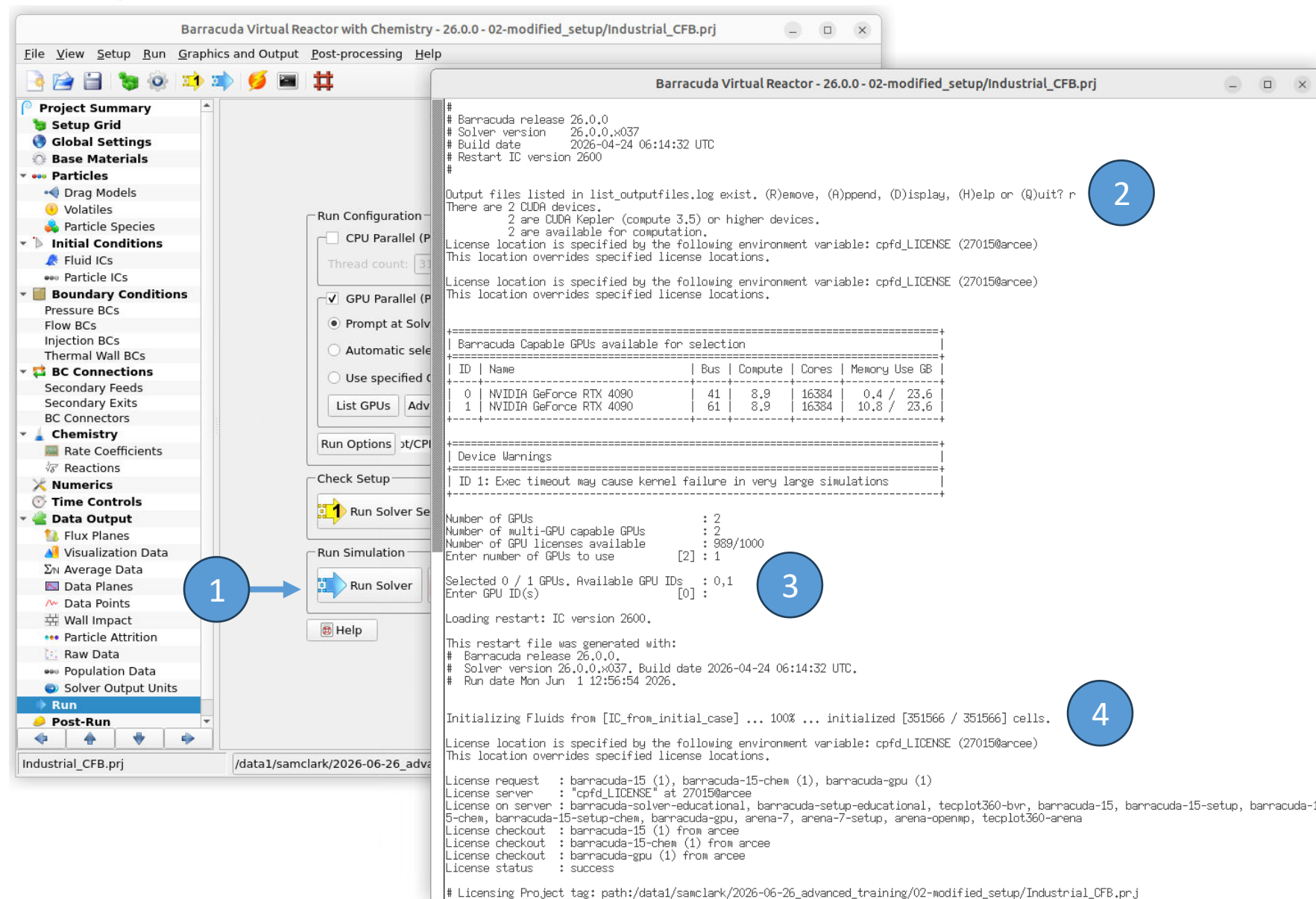
Comment: Refractory parameters from Mirzaei et al., 2023

Help Cancel OK

Start Simulation from $t=0$

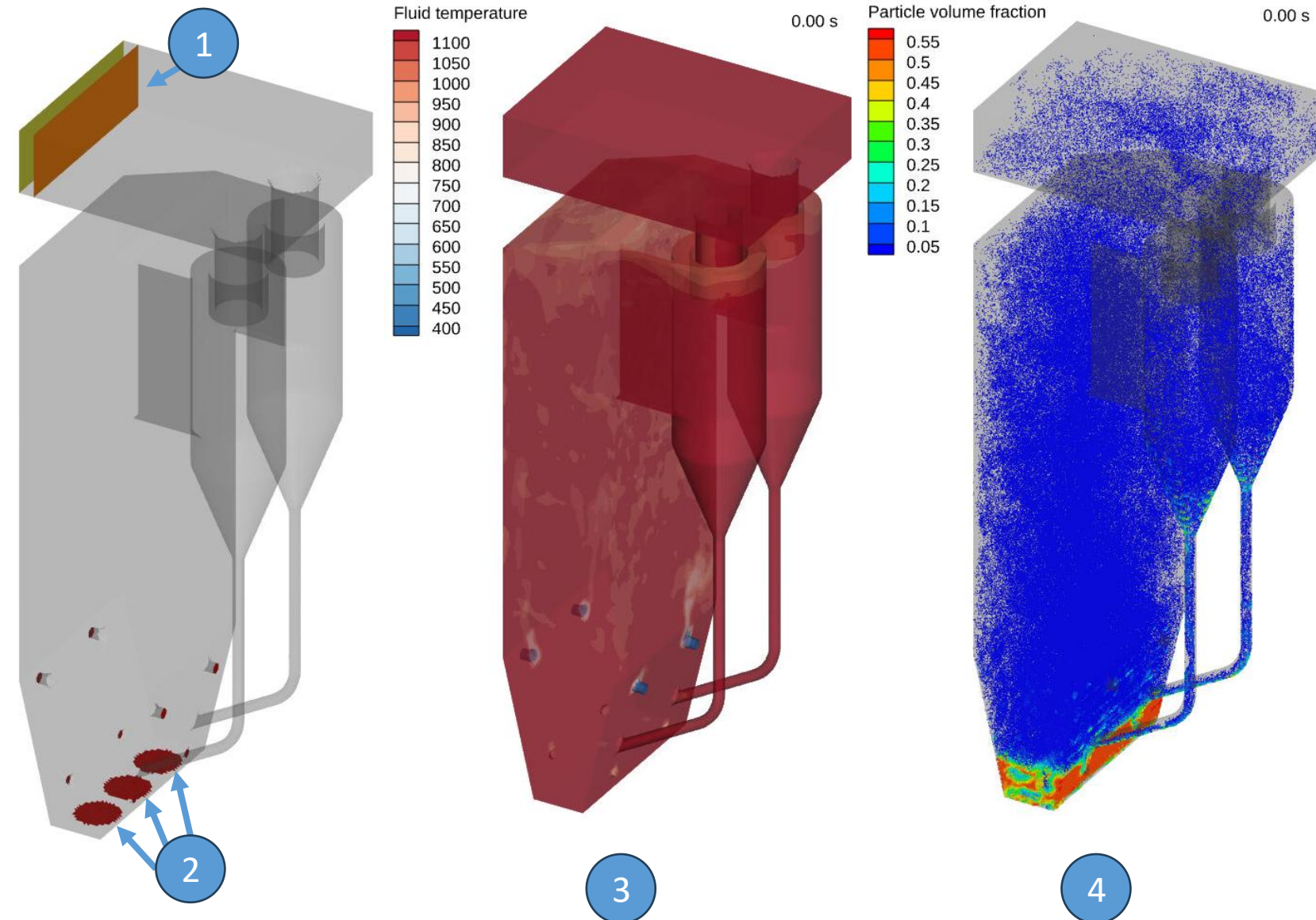
Remember: this is a new simulation, not a restart

1. Run → Run Solver
2. Remove any files when prompted to start solver
3. Select the GPU ID
4. Note that fluid and particles are initialized from IC_from_initial_case



Use “View Setup” to Verify Changes to Project

1. Baffle has been added
2. Flow BCs for primary air have been changed to three circular regions
3. Fluid has been initialized from previous case
4. Particles have been initialized from previous case





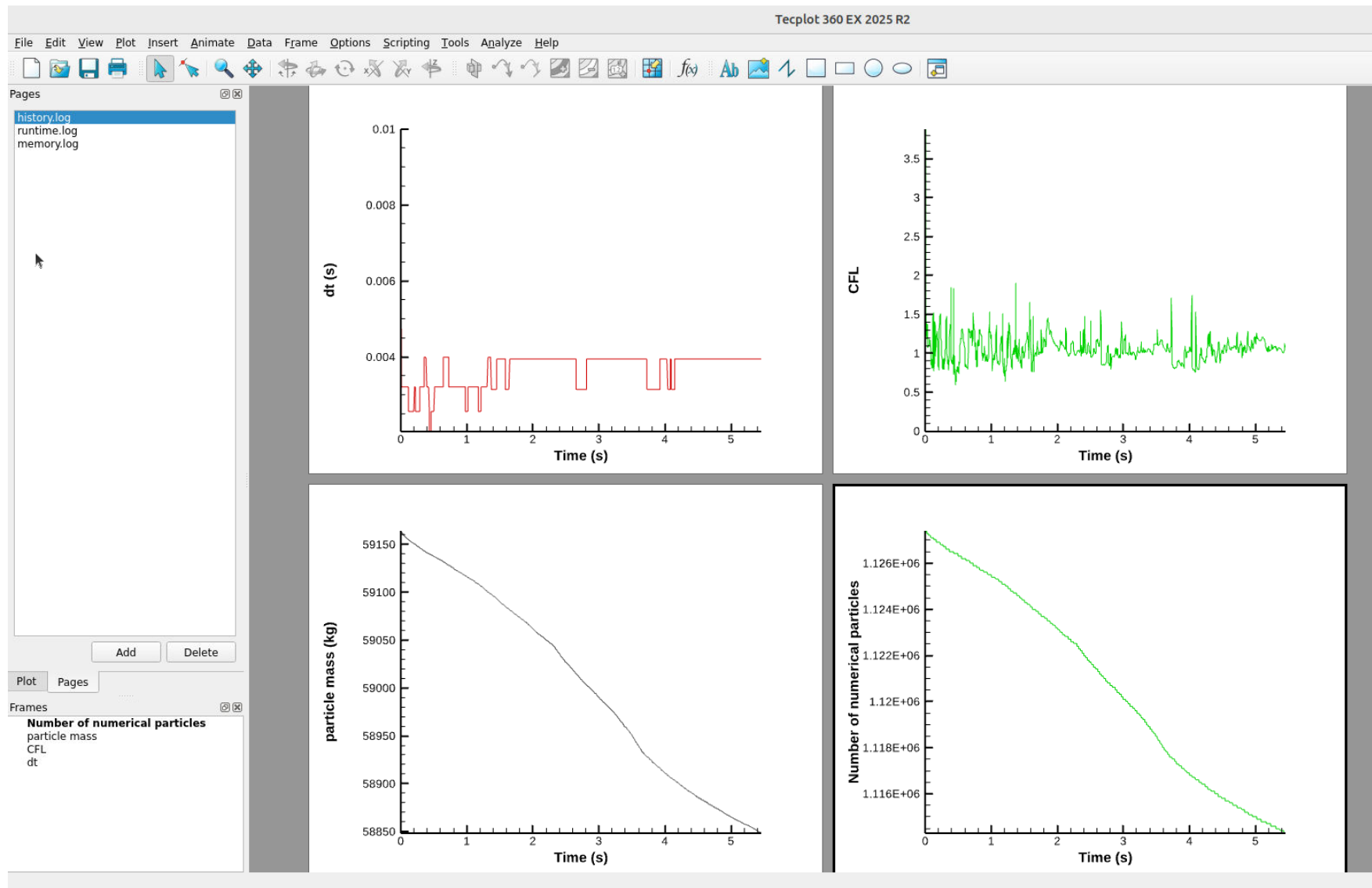
Post-Processing Examples and Exercises

Monitor Run – history.log Page

Good to do first

Keep an eye on:

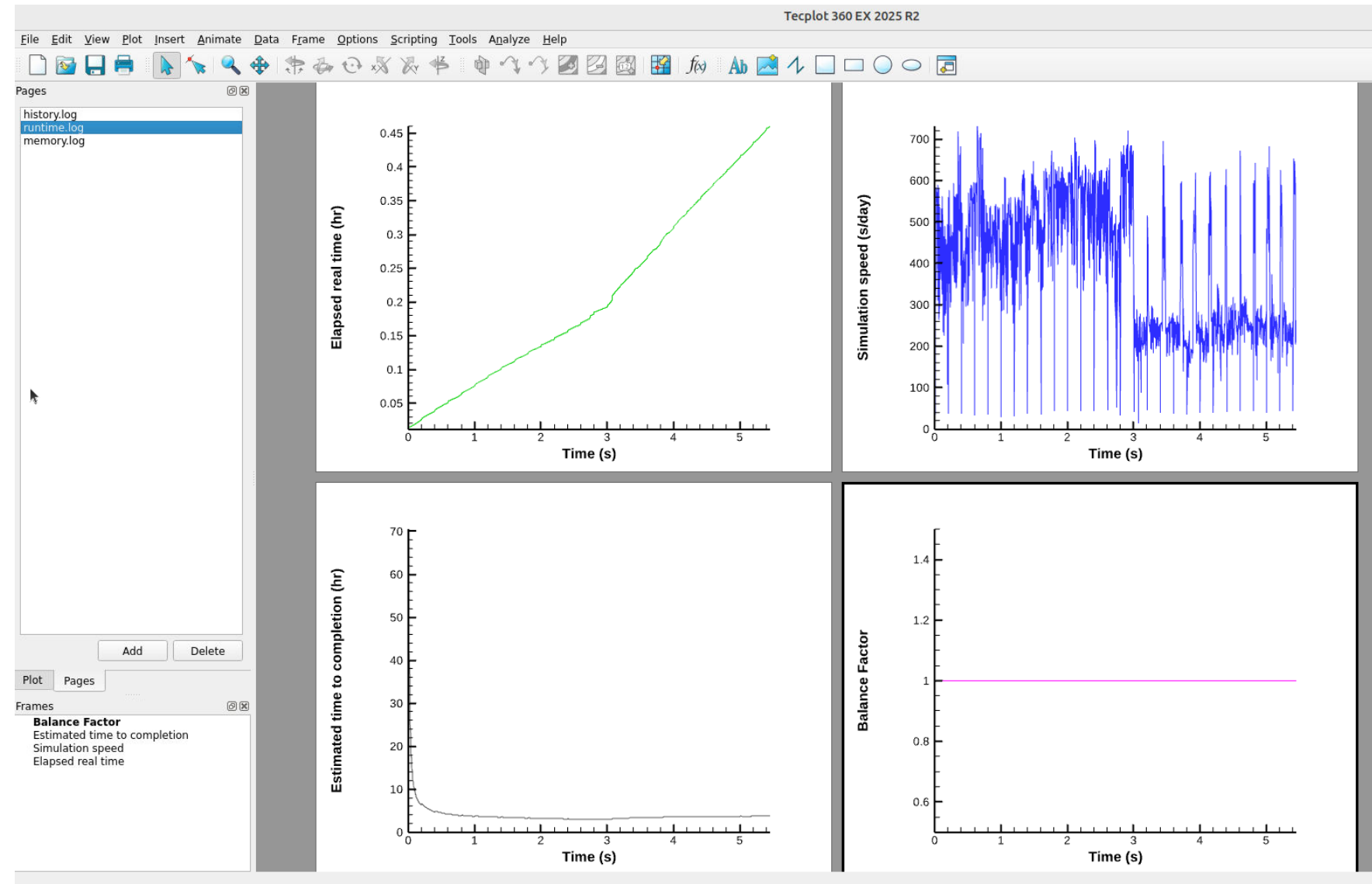
- Time step: is it staying at a reasonable value? You don't want it to drop too low because that is slow.
- CFL: is it staying around 1?
- Total mass and total particle count: are these increasing or decreasing too much?



Monitor Run – runtime.log page

Most useful plots are often:

- Elapsed real time: to answer “how long did the simulation take to run”, especially at the end
- Simulation speed: to know how fast the simulation is running and if it is slowing down over time



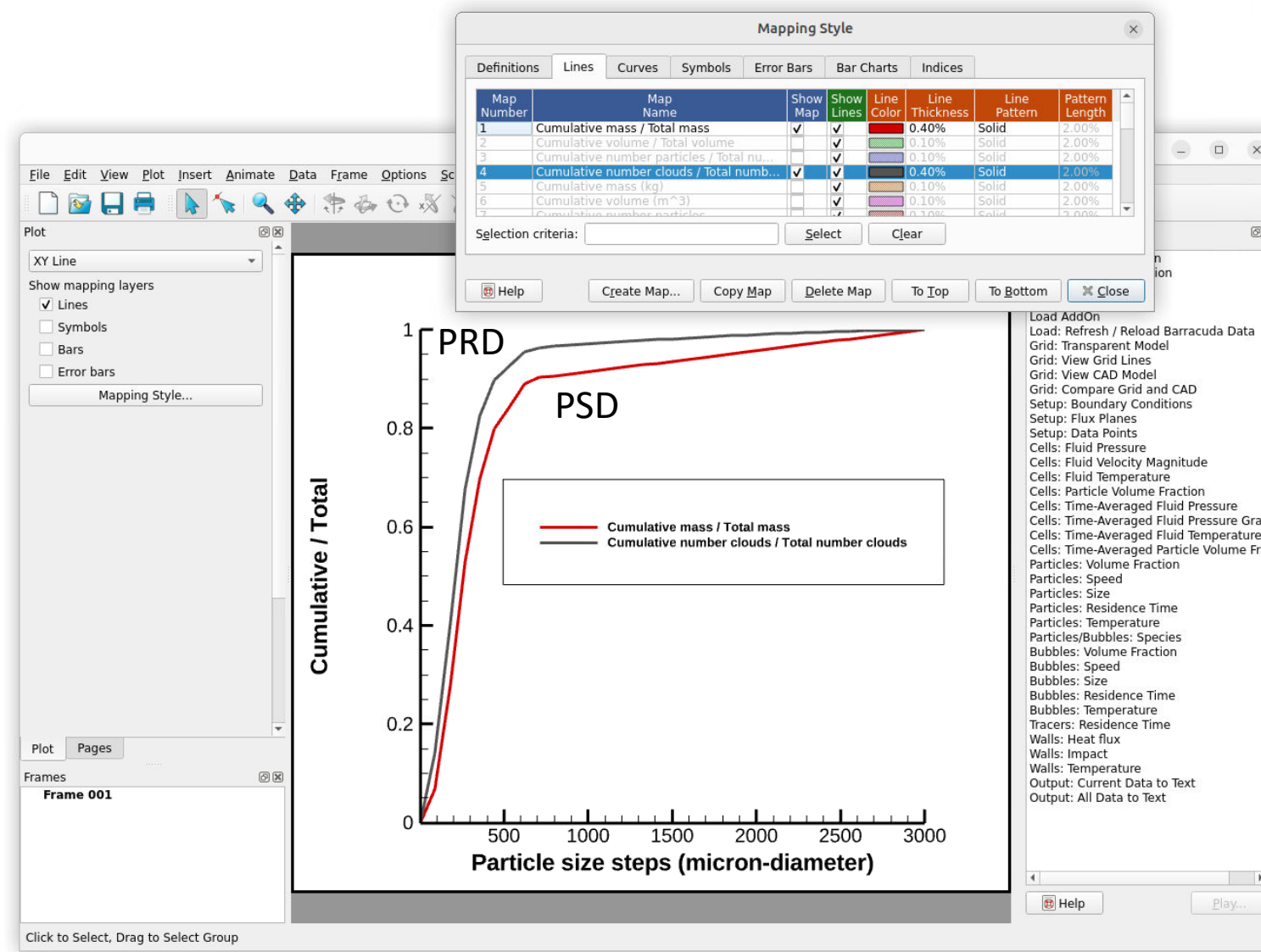
Plotting PRD Curves from POPUL*log Files

Launch Tecplot

File → Load Barracuda Data
→ Load Data Files →
POPUL_0.000e+00.log

Useful to quantify PRD vs
PSD, to show how much
resolution is allotted based
on particle size

If no PRD used → PSD curve
equals PRD curve

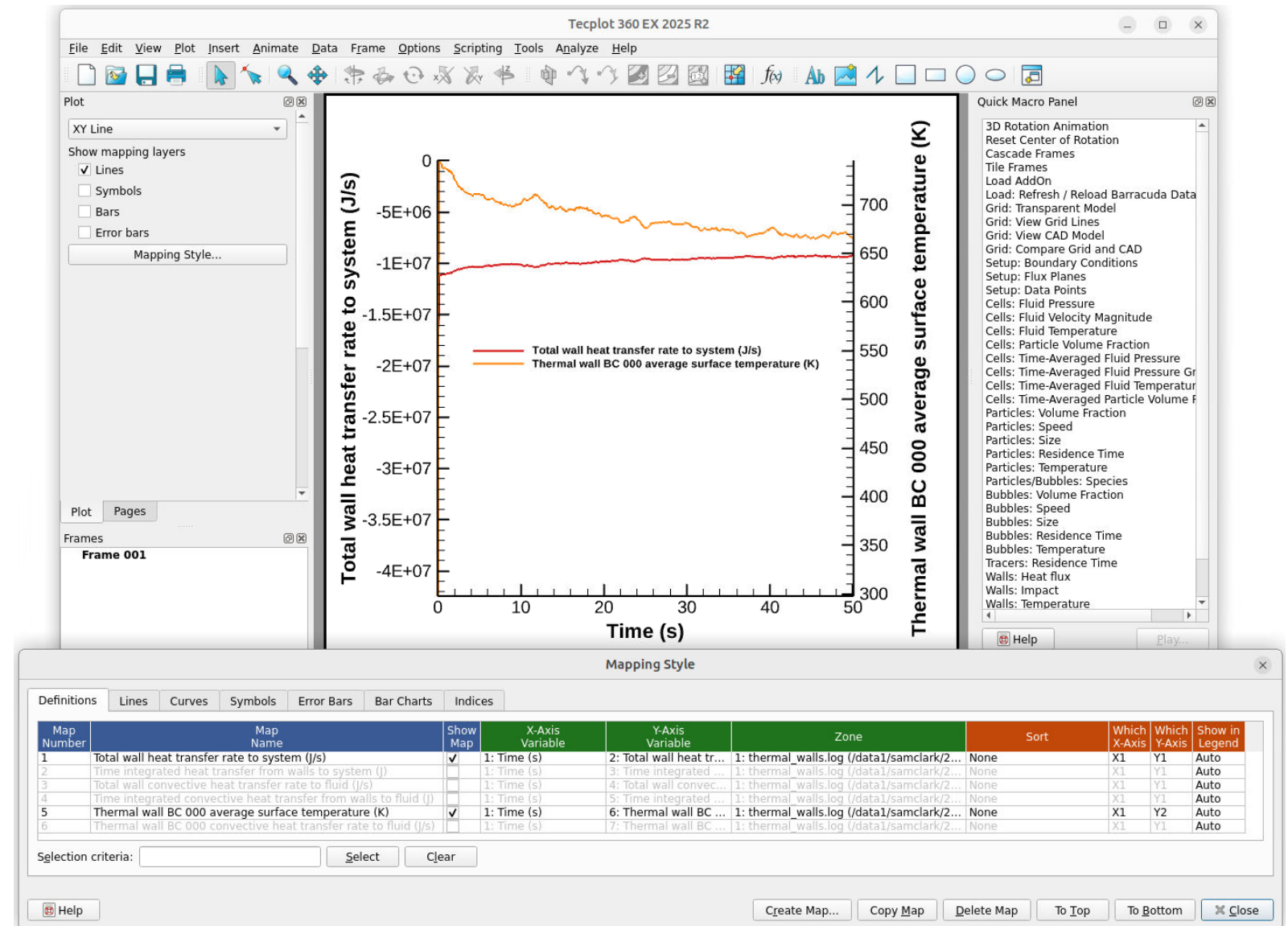


<https://cpfd-software.com/tecplot-for-barracuda-creating-xy-plots/>

Plotting Data from thermal_walls.log

In this example, it's interesting to plot heat transfer along with average surface temperature (since we specified an ambient temperature and a resistance)

In other simulations, plotting conductive, convective, and radiative transfer is often useful



<https://cpfd-software.com/tecplot-for-barracuda-creating-xy-plots/>

Visualizing Particles Stopped by Baffle

Quick macro: Particle Size

Zone style: Show baffle

Zone style: Use spheres for scatter

Blanking: Hide particles ≤ 100.1 microns diameter

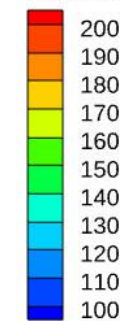
Contour legend: 100 – 200 microns range

<https://cpfd-software.com/tecplot-for-barracuda-adjusting-the-contour-legend>

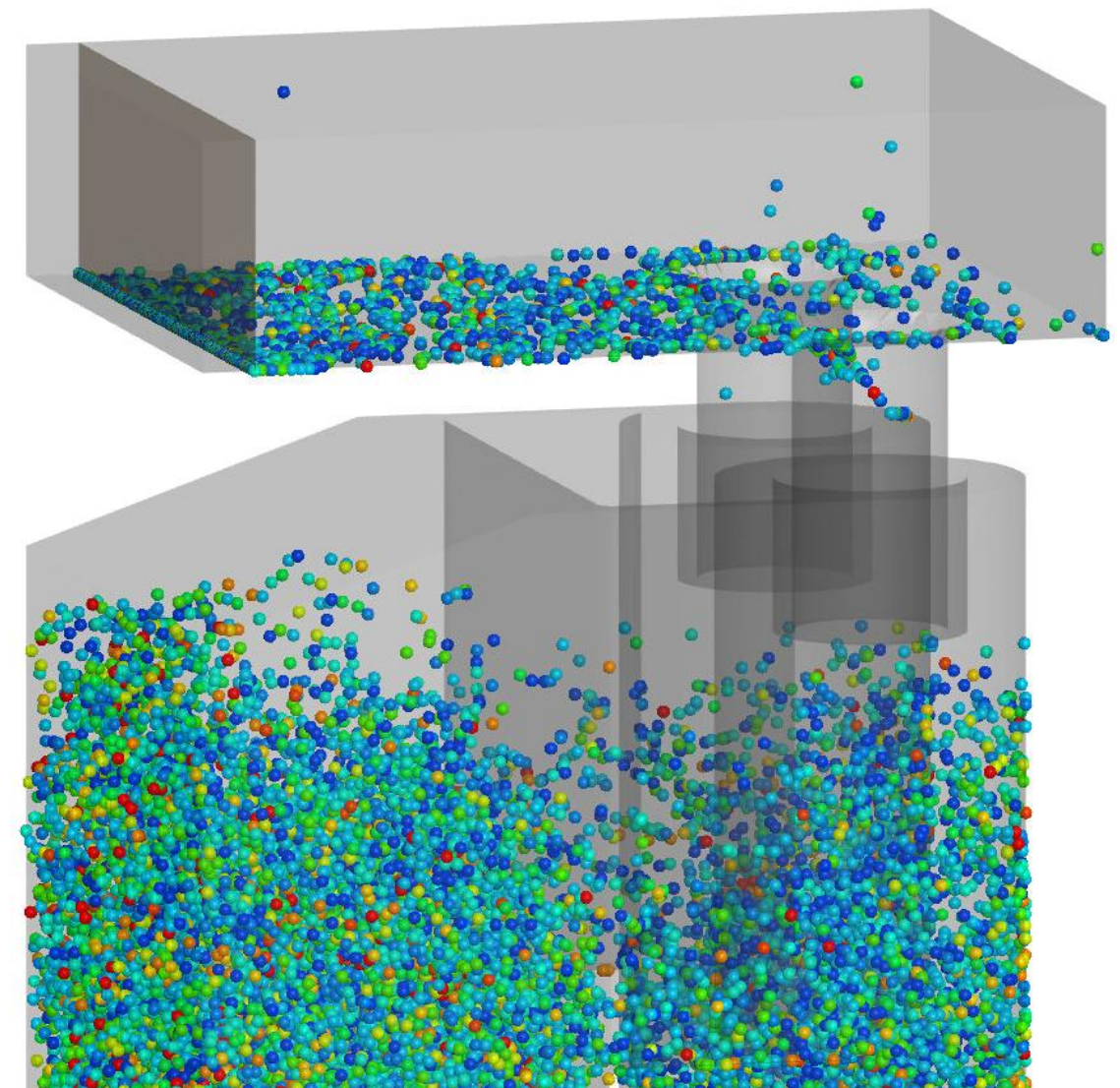
<https://cpfd-software.com/tecplot-for-barracuda-using-value-blanking>

<https://cpfd-software.com/tecplot-for-barracuda-scaling-particles-by-a-variable>

Particle size



50.00 s



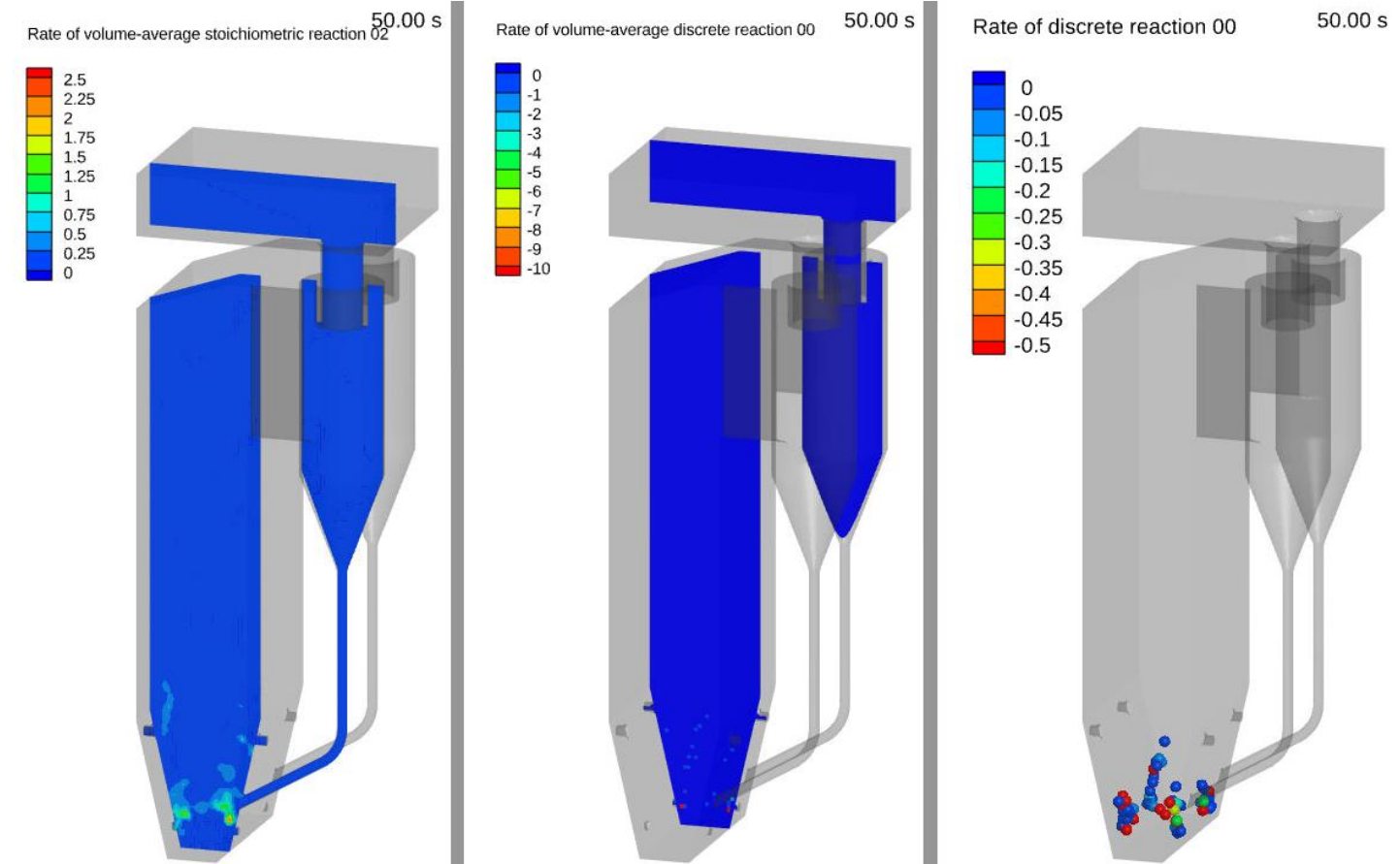
Visualizing Chemical Reaction Rates

Slices to show “volume-average stoichiometric” and “volume-average discrete” reaction rates

- Animate to find regions of interest
- Adjust contour legend
- Both use selected “Volume-Average Chemical Reaction Rate” units from Solver Output Units window (see next slide)

Particles to show discrete reaction rate

- Blanking to isolate only particles of interest based on the specific reaction you’re looking at
- Uses selected “Discrete Chemical Reaction Rate” units from Solver Output Units window (see next slide)



<https://cpfd-software.com/tecplot-for-barracuda-adjusting-the-contour-legend>

<https://cpfd-software.com/tecplot-for-barracuda-using-value-blanking>

<https://cpfd-software.com/tecplot-for-barracuda-using-frames>

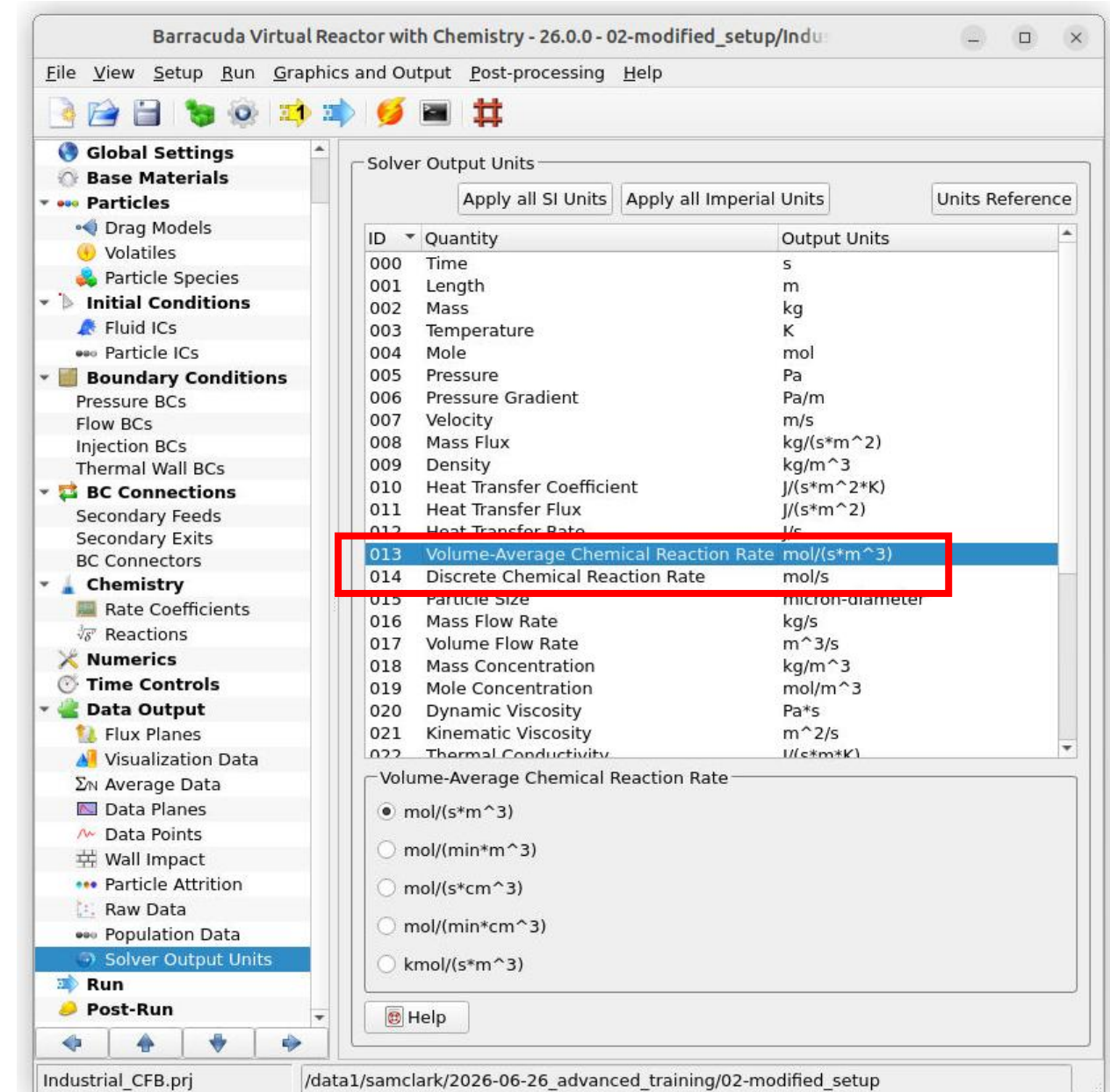
<https://cpfd-software.com/tecplot-for-barracuda-scaling-particles-by-a-variable>

Visualizing Chemical Reaction Rates: Units

All chemical reaction rate output data has units based on the user's selections in the "Solver Output Units" window

You can use any combination of units when inputting chemical reaction rates, they will always be converted to the selected output units for all data output

"Volume-average discrete reaction rates" have the same units as "Volume-average stoichiometric" reaction rates



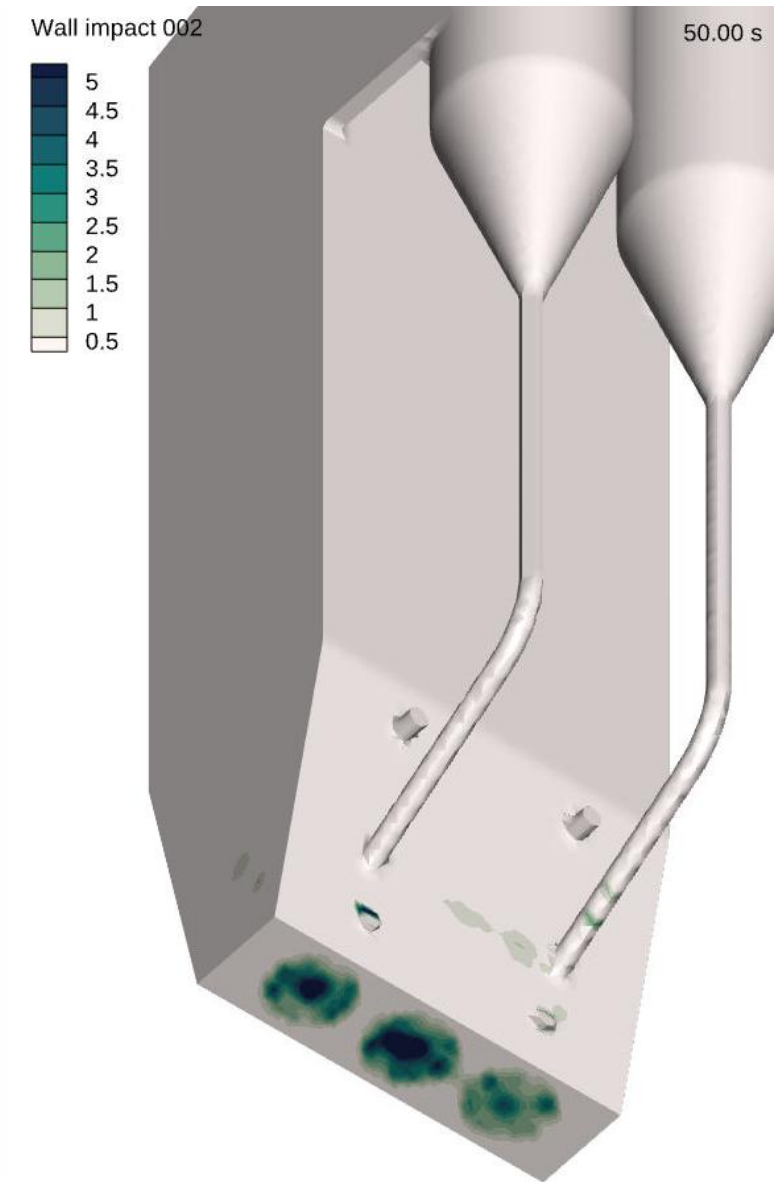
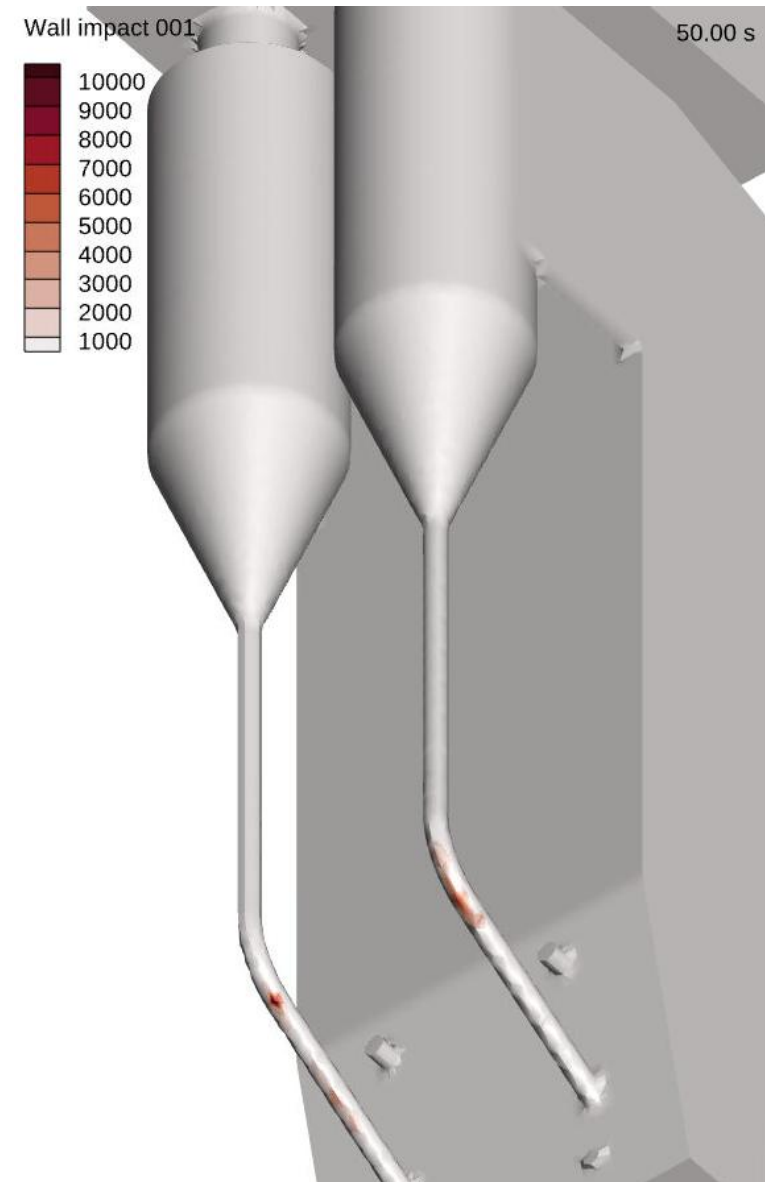
Examine Wall Impact Results

Use multiple frames to show wall impact results in specific regions based on project setup

- Wall impact 001 was configured to represent bare steel
- Wall impact 002 was configured to represent refractory lining

Units for wall impact:

- $\text{kg/m}^2/\text{year}$



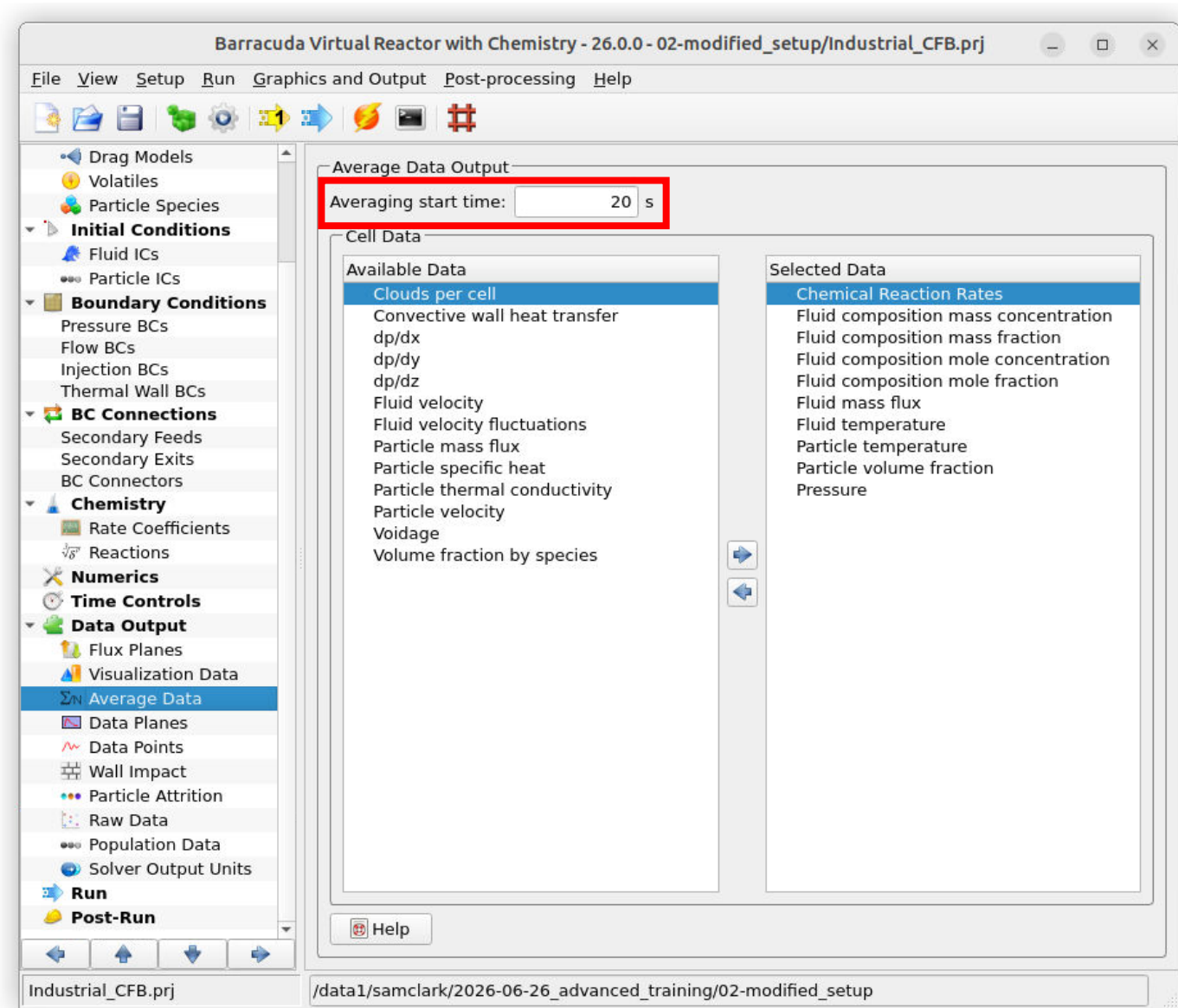
PyTecplot: Calculate Time-Average Over Custom Period

Barracuda's built-in Average Data:

- Starts at a user-specified time
- Is a cumulative average from that time

This default behavior often works well

However, sometimes it is useful to calculate a time-average over a different period of time → we can use PyTecplot to do this



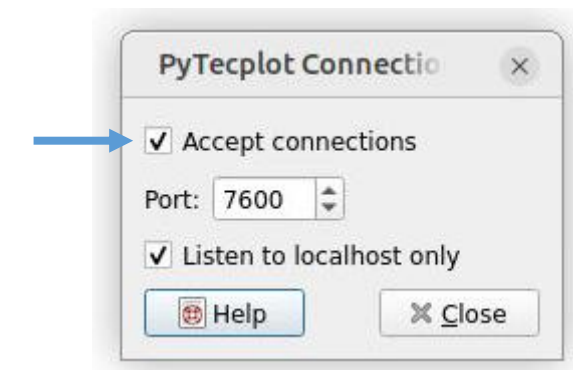
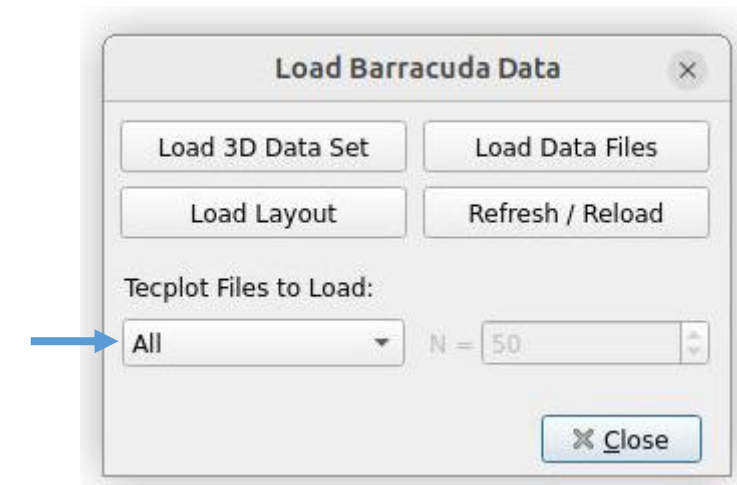
PyTecplot: Calculate Time-Average Over Custom Period

The necessary scripts are already in your directory for this example

- Can also be downloaded from <https://cpfd-software.com/tecplot-for-barracuda-calculating-average-values-over-a-custom-time-period/>

Typical steps for running the scripts:

- In Barracuda GUI:
 - Open terminal
 - View Results to open Tecplot and load latest results file
- In Tecplot:
 - File → Load Barracuda Data → All → Refresh / Reload
 - Scripting → PyTecplot Connections → Accept connections



PyTecplot: Calculate Time-Average Over Custom Period

In the terminal you opened from the Barracuda GUI, run the command:

- `python cpfd_TimeAverage.py`

```
(base) samclark@gator:/data1/samclark/2026-06-26_advanced_training/02-modified_setup$ python cpfd_TimeAverage.py
Connecting to Tecplot 360 TecUtil Server on:
tcp://localhost:7600
Connection established.
Which strand do you want to average? Enter the strand number or enter 'all': 1
Minimum solution time to include in average (or press enter for no minimum): 40
Maximum solution time to include in average (or press enter for no maximum): 50.1
Computing average for strand: 1, var: x
Computing average for strand: 1, var: y
Computing average for strand: 1, var: z
Computing average for strand: 1, var: i
Computing average for strand: 1, var: j
Computing average for strand: 1, var: k
Computing average for strand: 1, var: Bulk density
Computing average for strand: 1, var: Cell volume
Computing average for strand: 1, var: Cloud Id
Computing average for strand: 1, var: Cloud Id base
Computing average for strand: 1, var: Cloud mass
Computing average for strand: 1, var: Discrete particle mass fraction ASH(S)
Computing average for strand: 1, var: Discrete particle mass fraction C(S)
Computing average for strand: 1, var: Discrete particle mass fraction CaCO3(S)
Computing average for strand: 1, var: Discrete particle mass fraction CaO(S)
Computing average for strand: 1, var: Discrete particle mass fraction CaSO4(S)
```

Strand 1 is for Cells

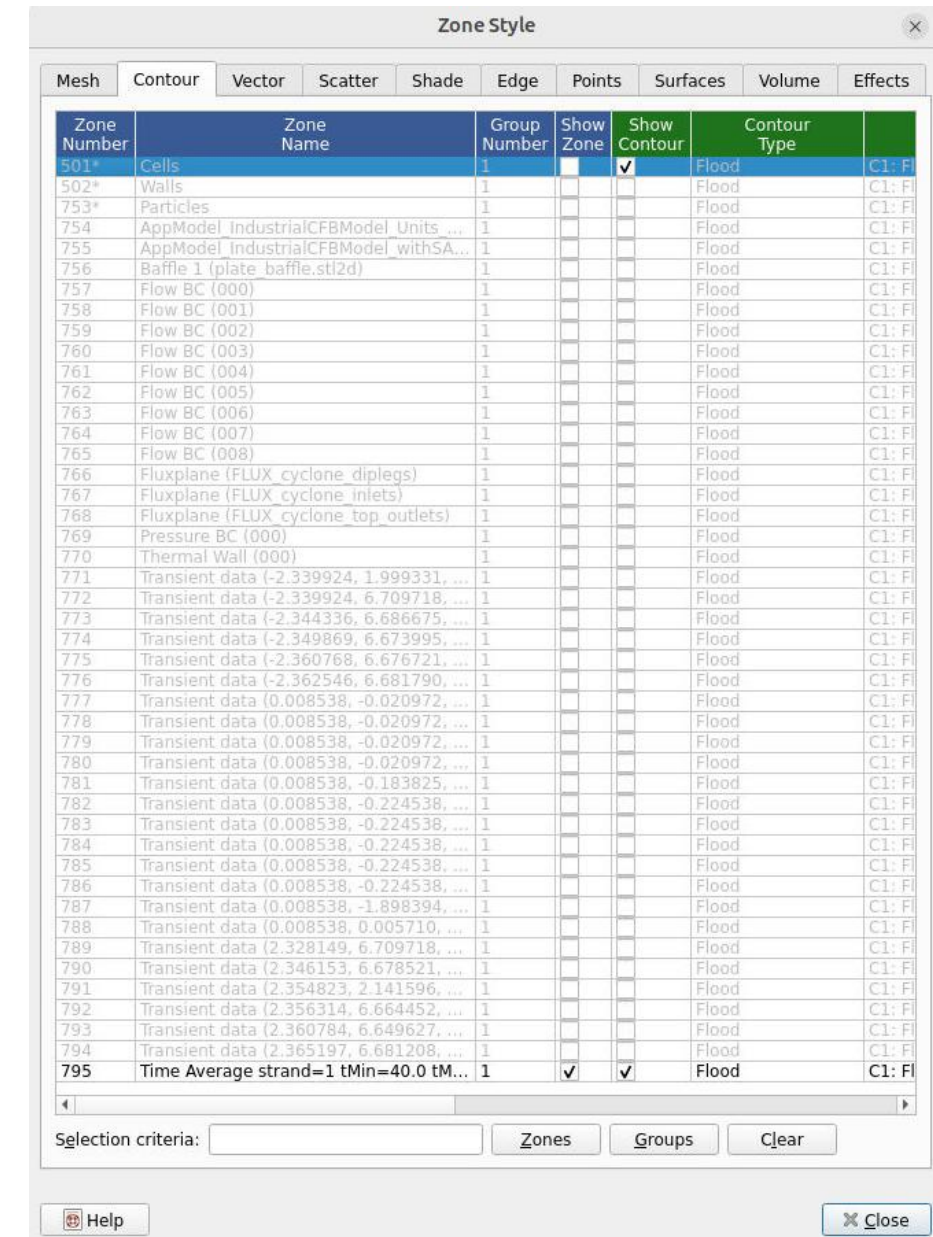
Set a max time slightly higher than true maximum to accommodate solution time roundoff

PyTecplot: Calculate Time-Average Over Custom Period

In the Tecplot GUI:

1. Quick Macro Panel → Cells: Fluid Velocity Magnitude
2. Zone Style dialog → Uncheck “Show Zone” for Cells
3. The last Zone in the list should be the only one enabled → this is the calculated time average zone

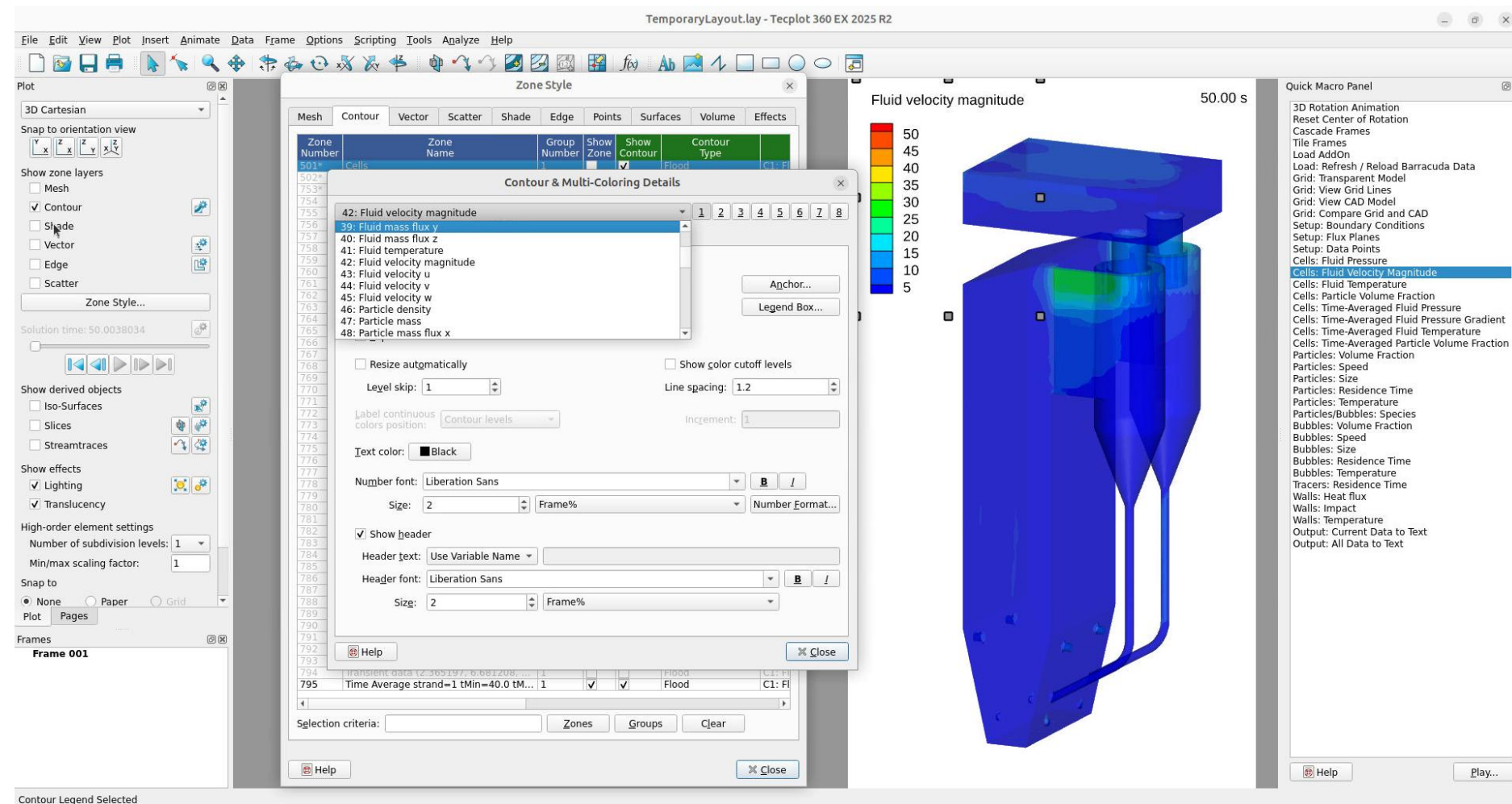
Any cell-based data you plot will now be from this zone, which is the time average from 40 to 50 s



PyTecplot: Calculate Time-Average Over Custom Period

Double-click the Contour Legend to select different variables

All cell-based variables will represent the time average values over the custom time period



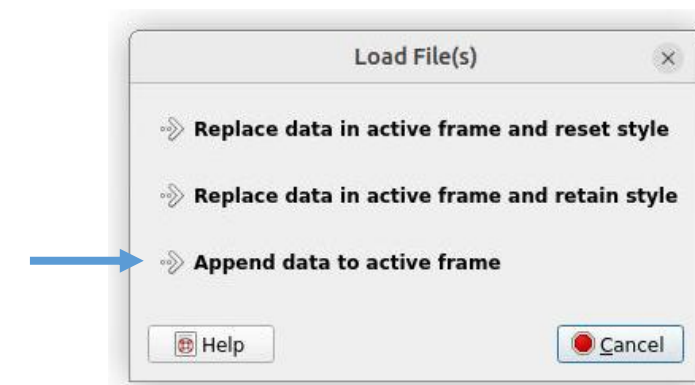
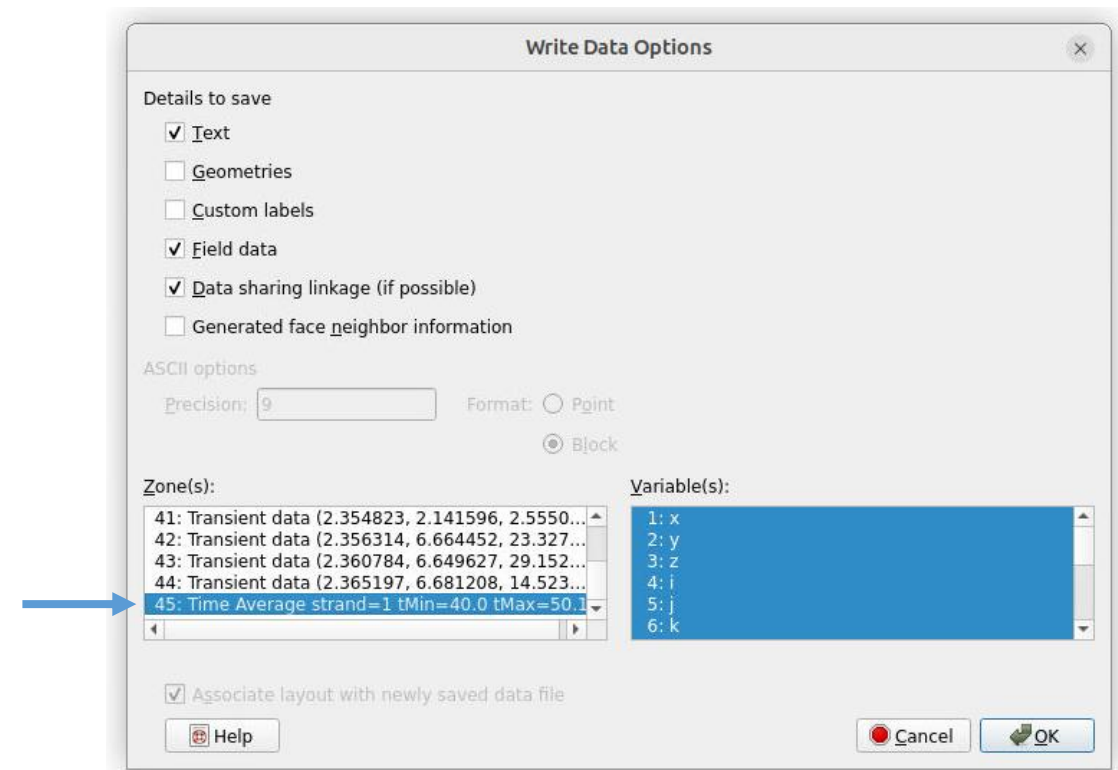
PyTecplot: Calculate Time-Average Over Custom Period

To save calculated time average results:

- File → Write Data...
- Enter a file name
- Select only the time average zone
- Save

To load calculated time average results:

- From Barracuda GUI: View Results
- File → Load Data...
- Select the time average data file that was previously saved
- Append data to active frame



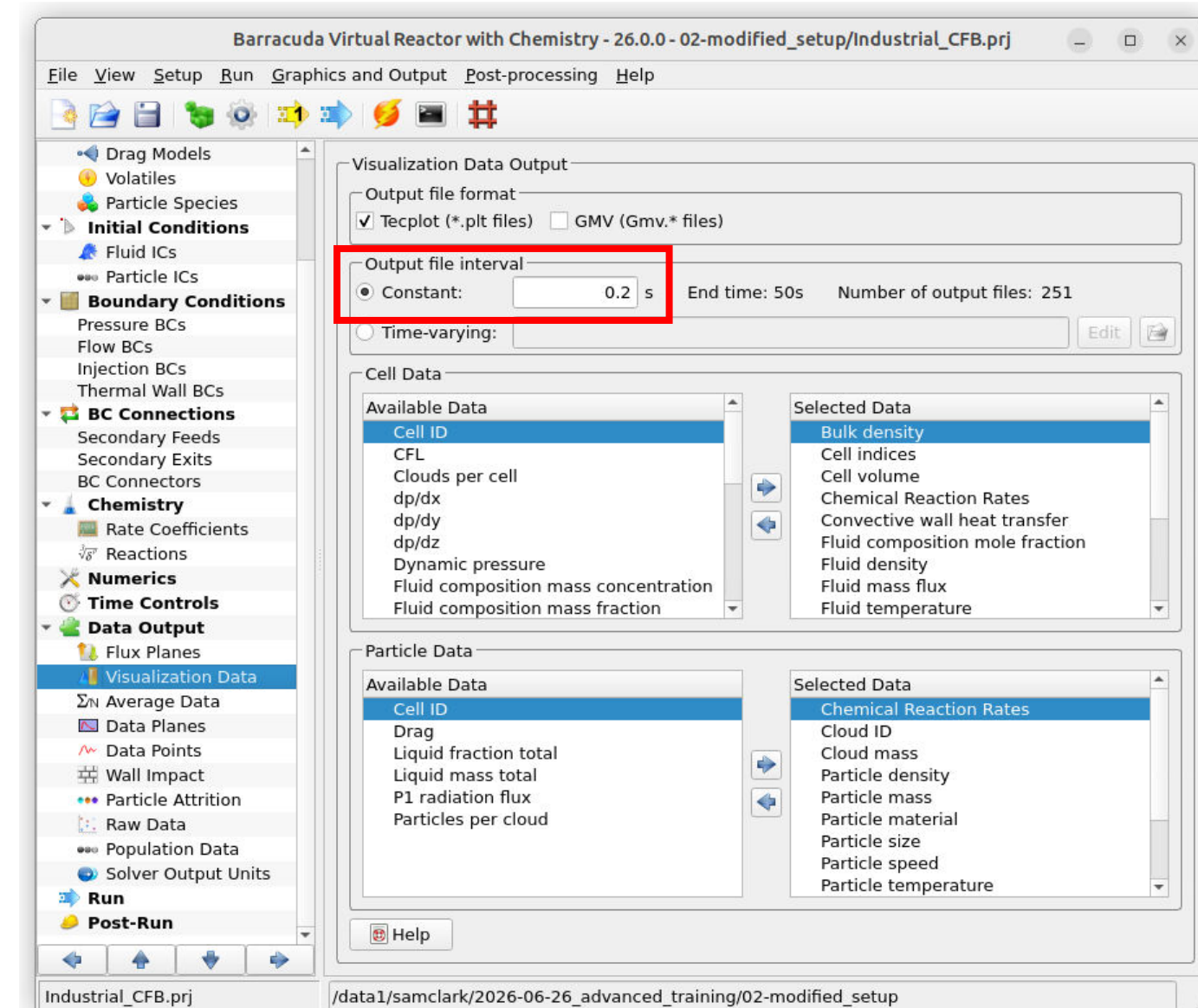
PyTecplot: Calculate Time-Average Over Custom Period

Advantages:

- Possible to calculate time average over any desired time period
- Useful if you forgot to enable time average data before you ran a simulation

Disadvantages:

- Averaging resolution is limited to the output file interval for Tecplot files



PyTecplot: Calculate Time-Average Flow Uniformity

Gas flow uniformity can be a useful metric for quantifying fluidization quality

- GMV-focused post-processing steps were presented at the [2018 European User Group Meeting](#) in the [Advanced Training](#) session
- Today we'll cover how to calculate gas flow uniformity using PyTecplot

Calculating Gas Uniformity Index

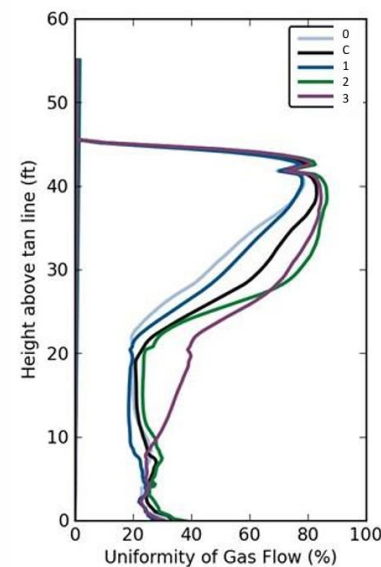
Quantification of time-averaged gas flow shown (Uniformity Index*)

$$U = \frac{\text{Cross-sectional area being used for gas flow}}{\text{Total cross-sectional area}}$$

Calculated using:

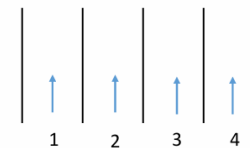
- GMV output data, converted to text format (gmv2txt.py)
- Python (Jupyter notebook)

* See Fletcher, R. et. al., "Identifying the Root Cause of Afterburn in Fluidized Catalytic Crackers", AFPM 2016 Annual Meeting, AM-16-15.

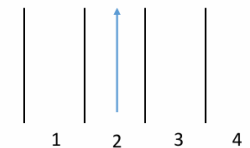


Simple Example of Uniformity Calculation

Consider a very simple system with 4 channels



Channel	Flux	Area	A*F	A*F^2
1	2	1	2	4
2	2	1	2	4
3	2	1	2	4
4	2	1	2	4
Sum		4	8	16
Uniformity =				100%
Uniformity = (sum(A*F))^2 / sum(A*F^2) / sum(A)				



Channel	Flux	Area	A*F	A*F^2
1	0	1	0	0
2	8	1	8	64
3	0	1	0	0
4	0	1	0	0
Sum		4	8	64
Uniformity =				25%
Uniformity = (sum(A*F))^2 / sum(A*F^2) / sum(A)				

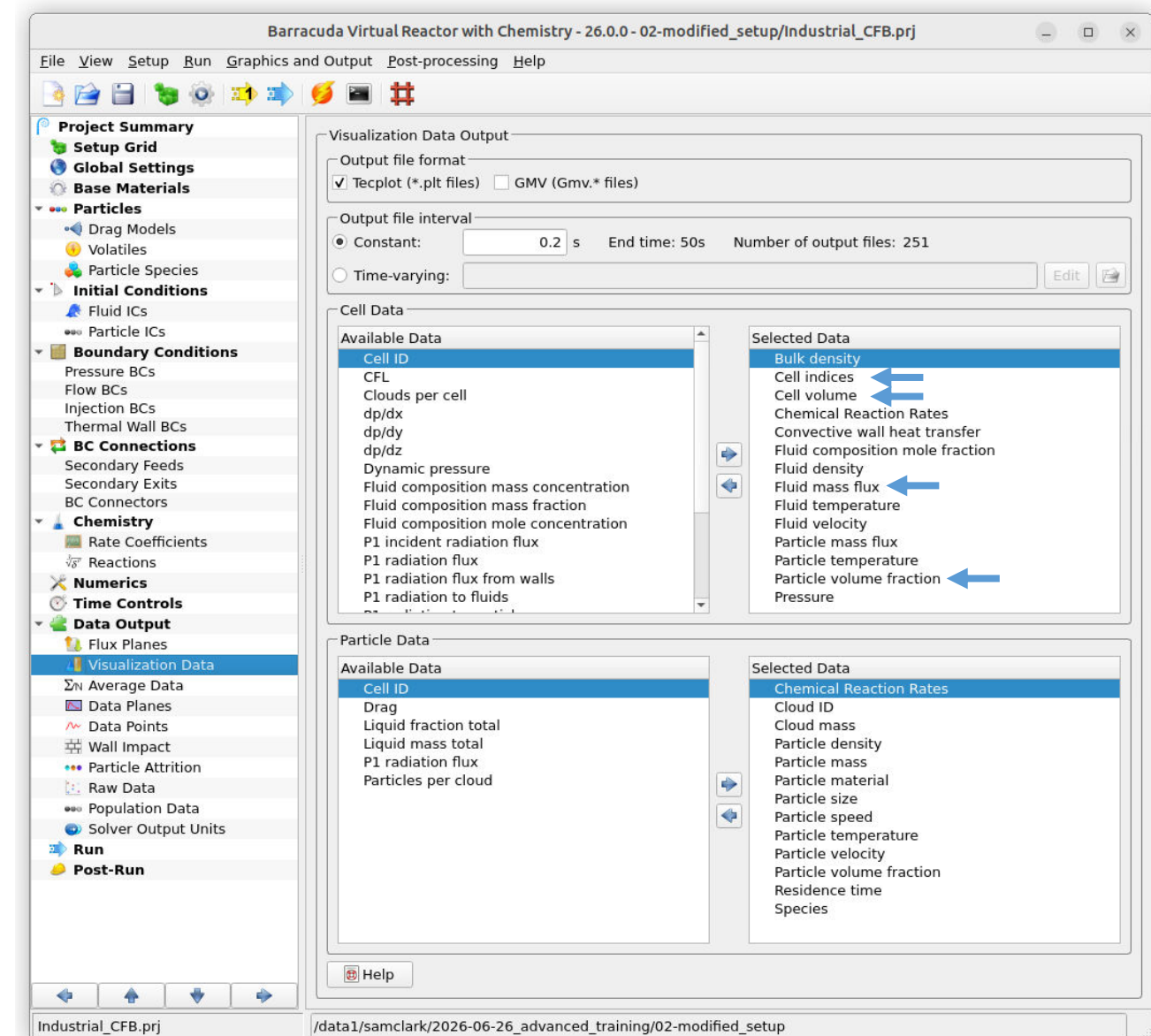
PyTecplot: Calculate Time-Average Flow Uniformity

To calculate instantaneous flow uniformity using this method, you must select the following Visualization Data outputs for Cell Data:

- Cell indices, Cell volume, Fluid mass flux, Particle volume fraction

To calculate time-average flow uniformity, select the following Average Data:

- Fluid mass flux, Particle volume fraction



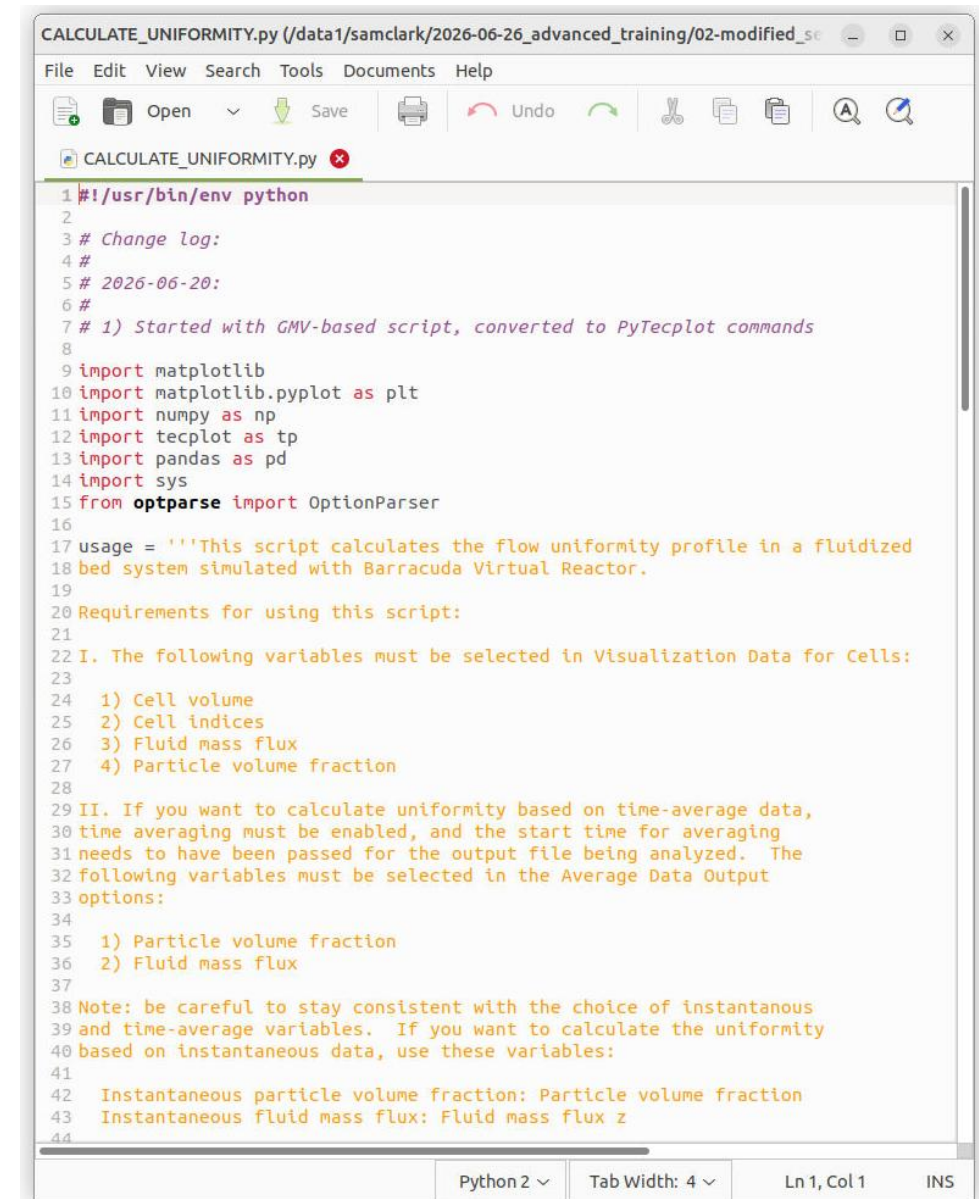
PyTecplot: Calculate Time-Average Flow Uniformity

A Python script is present in your simulation directory:

- CALCULATE_UNIFORMITY.py
- This script will also be posted on CPFD's website for the Users' Conference

You can view the script's contents on the cloud-based training machine by using the command:

- `gedit CALCULATE_UNIFORMITY.py`

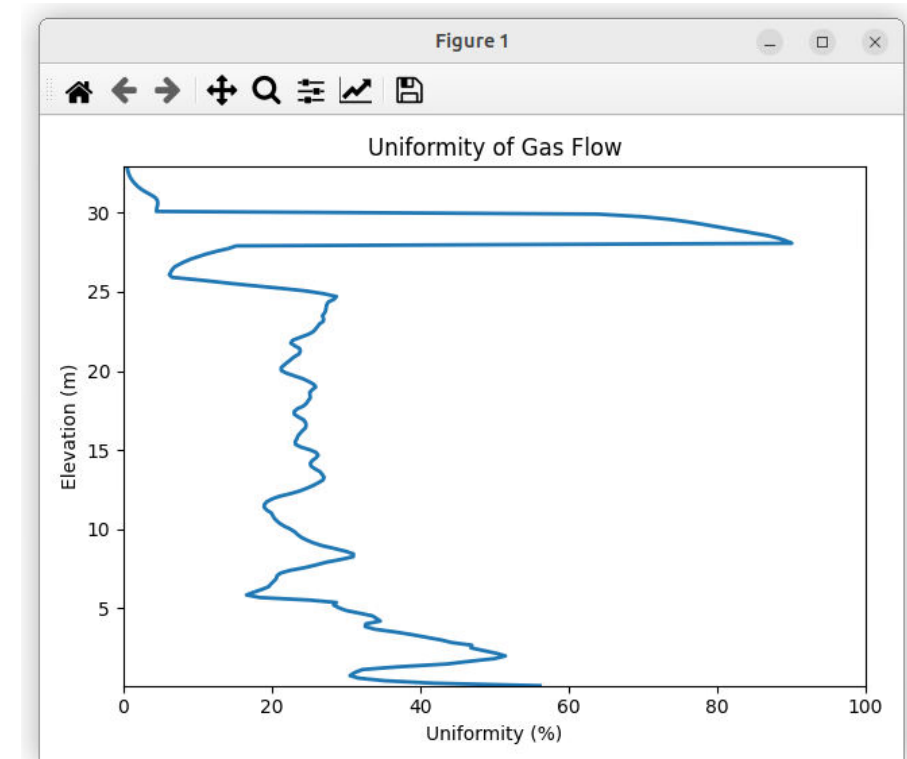
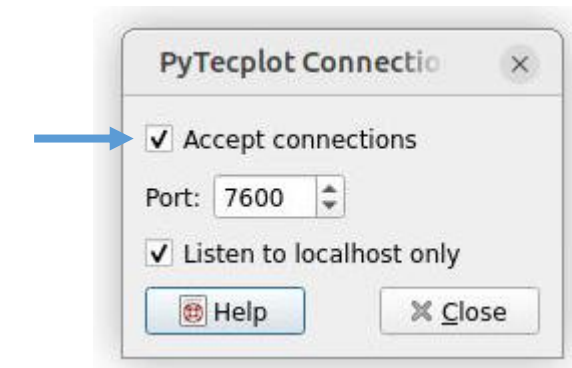


```
CALCULATE_UNIFORMITY.py (/data1/samclark/2026-06-26_advanced_training/02-modified_...  
File Edit View Search Tools Documents Help  
Open Save Undo  
CALCULATE_UNIFORMITY.py  
1 #!/usr/bin/env python  
2  
3 # Change log:  
4 #  
5 # 2026-06-20:  
6 #  
7 # 1) Started with GMV-based script, converted to PyTecplot commands  
8  
9 import matplotlib  
10 import matplotlib.pyplot as plt  
11 import numpy as np  
12 import tecplot as tp  
13 import pandas as pd  
14 import sys  
15 from optparse import OptionParser  
16  
17 usage = '''This script calculates the flow uniformity profile in a fluidized  
18 bed system simulated with Barracuda Virtual Reactor.  
19  
20 Requirements for using this script:  
21  
22 I. The following variables must be selected in Visualization Data for Cells:  
23  
24 1) Cell volume  
25 2) Cell indices  
26 3) Fluid mass flux  
27 4) Particle volume fraction  
28  
29 II. If you want to calculate uniformity based on time-average data,  
30 time averaging must be enabled, and the start time for averaging  
31 needs to have been passed for the output file being analyzed. The  
32 following variables must be selected in the Average Data Output  
33 options:  
34  
35 1) Particle volume fraction  
36 2) Fluid mass flux  
37  
38 Note: be careful to stay consistent with the choice of instantaneous  
39 and time-average variables. If you want to calculate the uniformity  
40 based on instantaneous data, use these variables:  
41  
42 Instantaneous particle volume fraction: Particle volume fraction  
43 Instantaneous fluid mass flux: Fluid mass flux z  
44  
Python 2 v Tab Width: 4 v Ln 1, Col 1 INS
```

PyTecplot: Calculate Time-Average Flow Uniformity

Run the CALCULATE_UNIFORMITY.py script:

- In Barracuda GUI:
 - Open terminal
 - View Results to open Tecplot and load latest results file
- In Tecplot:
 - File → Load Barracuda Data → All → Refresh / Reload
 - Scripting → PyTecplot Connections → Accept connections
- In the terminal opened from Barracuda GUI:
 - `python CALCULATE_UNIFORMITY.py`
 - A plot of gas flow uniformity vs height should pop up



PyTecplot: Calculate Time-Average Flow Uniformity

The default behavior of the `CALCULATE_UNIFORMITY.py` script is to analyze the entire simulation domain

For our current example, we have upflow in the riser section of the CFB and downflow in the cyclone barrels and diplegs → it would probably be better to isolate just the regions with upward gas flow

In the terminal, recall your last command (up arrow) and add the following arguments to the end:

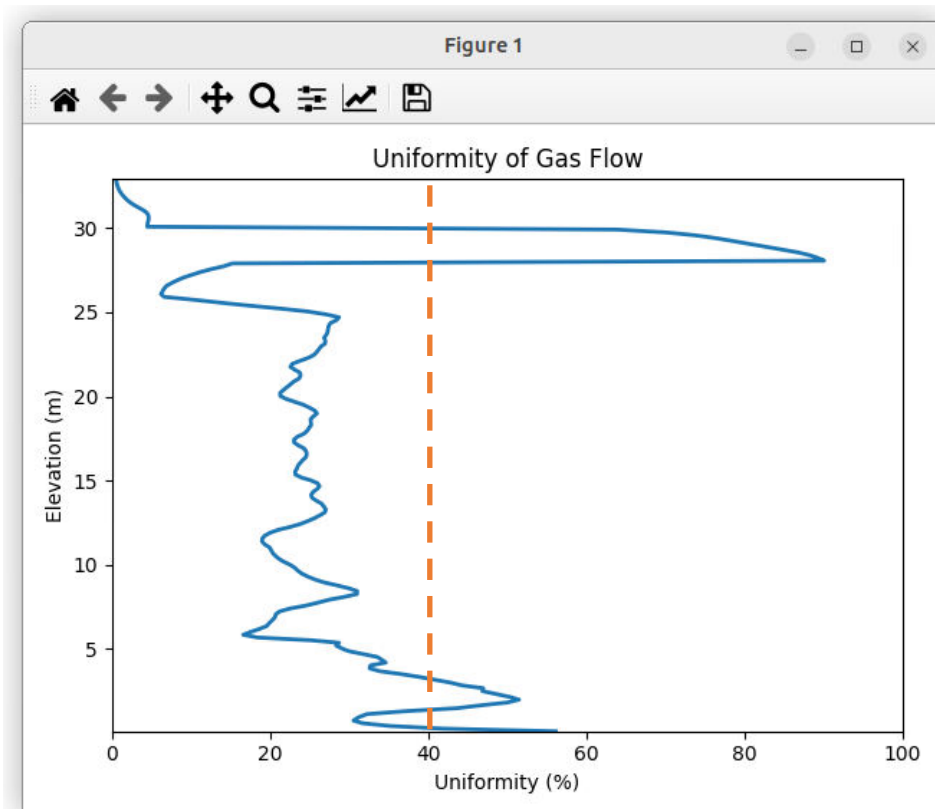
- `python CALCULATE_UNIFORMITY.py --yMax 2.75 --zMax 28`

Options to limit region of space for
calculating gas flow uniformity

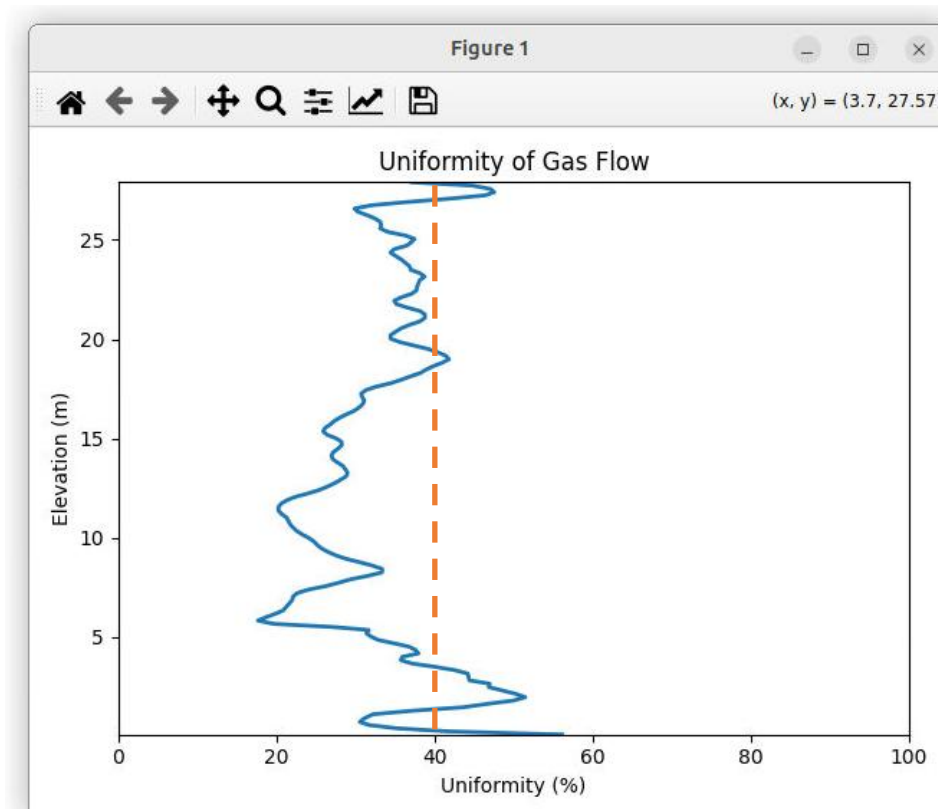
PyTecplot: Calculate Time-Average Flow Uniformity

Run the command with spatial limiters and compare the calculated flow uniformity profile with the original full-domain results

Full domain uniformity results



Spatially limited uniformity results



Exporting Calculated Python Results to Excel Format

It can often be useful to export data from Python (Numpy) arrays to Excel for further processing

The Pandas library provides an easy method

```
import pandas as pd
# ... create some Python Numpy arrays ...

# Define a Pandas dataframe and add arrays to it
df = pd.DataFrame({'Time (s)':t})
df['Time step (s)'] = dt
df['CFL'] = cfl
# ... and more lines if you have more arrays

# Output the DataFrame to Excel format
df.to_excel('my_filename.xlsx', index=False)
```

```
CALCULATE_UNIFORMITY.py (/data1/sam..._training/02-modified_setup)
File Edit Tools Syntax Buffers Window Help
#!/usr/bin/env python
# Change log:
#
# 2026-06-20:
#
# 1) Started with GMV-based script, converted to PyTecplot commands

import matplotlib
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import numpy as np
import tecplot as tp
import pandas as pd
import sys
from optparse import OptionParser

CALCULATE_UNIFORMITY.py 1,1 Top
#output average uniformity
print("Average uniformity = %f %% " % ( np.trapz(uniformity,zLocs)/(np.max(zLocs))))

#### WRITE DATA TO EXCEL FILE #####
if options.excelFile is not None:
    df = pd.DataFrame({'Height (m)':zLocs})
    df['Uniformity'] = uniformity
    df.to_excel(options.excelFile, index=False)

#### WRITE DATA TO OUTPUT FILE #####
if options.outputFile is not None:
    f = open(options.outputFile, 'w')
    f.write("# Output of CALCULATE_UNIFORMITY.py\n")
    f.write("#\n")
    f.write("# Command used to create this data:\n")
    f.write("#\n")
    f.write("# " + ' '.join(sys.argv) + "\n")
    f.write("#\n")
    f.write("#@ 1 \"Uniformity\" \"%\" \n")
    f.write("#@ 2 \"z-position\" \"(m)\" \n")

    for i in range(nSamps):
        f.write(str(uniformity[i]) + " " + str(zLocs[i]) + "\n")

    f.close()

#### PLOTTING #####
fig, ax = plt.subplots(tight layout=True)
CALCULATE_UNIFORMITY.py 147,1 89%
```

Open Discussion and Q&A

Thank you for attending the Advanced Training Workshop

Questions?

- ... about material covered today
- ... about any other Barracuda Virtual Reactor features

We're here to support you. Contact us at support@cpfd-software.com