



NEKRS

An Exascale CFD Solver

Stefan Kerkemeier (ANL), Mathis Bode (JSC)
Castiel2, Webinar Code of the Month Vol. 3, 2023

START

Mid 1980s at M.I.T (Paul Fischer, Lee Ho and Einar Rønquist) based on the spectral element method (Patera 1984)

MISSION

Pushing the boundaries of fast and accurate CFD to improve predictive modeling

COMMUNITY

500+ users worldwide
~40 publications per year

APPLICATIONS

Thermal hydraulics, renewables, combustion, urban, environmental, aeronautics and many more

TEAM

Cross-functional team of 10 about people

RESEARCH IMPACT

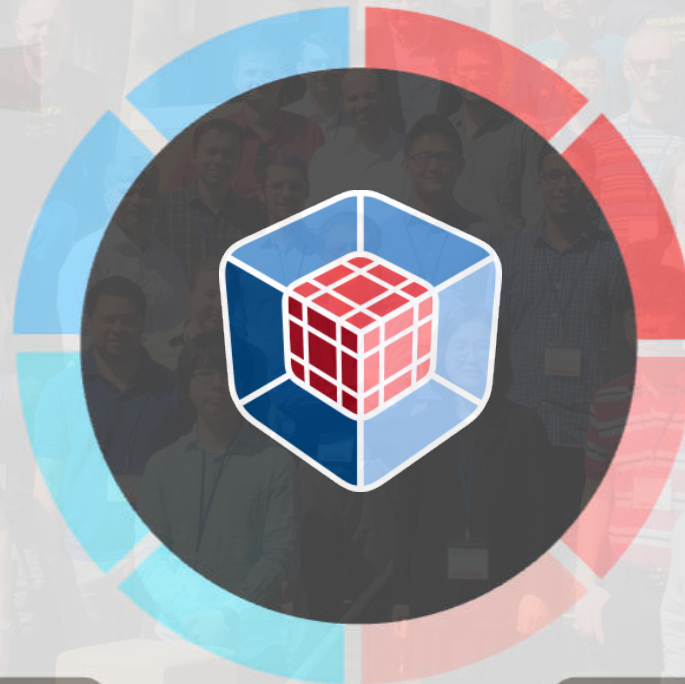
ECP, CEEC, CoEC, EXCELERAAT, PSAAP II, NEAMS, ...

OPEN SOURCE

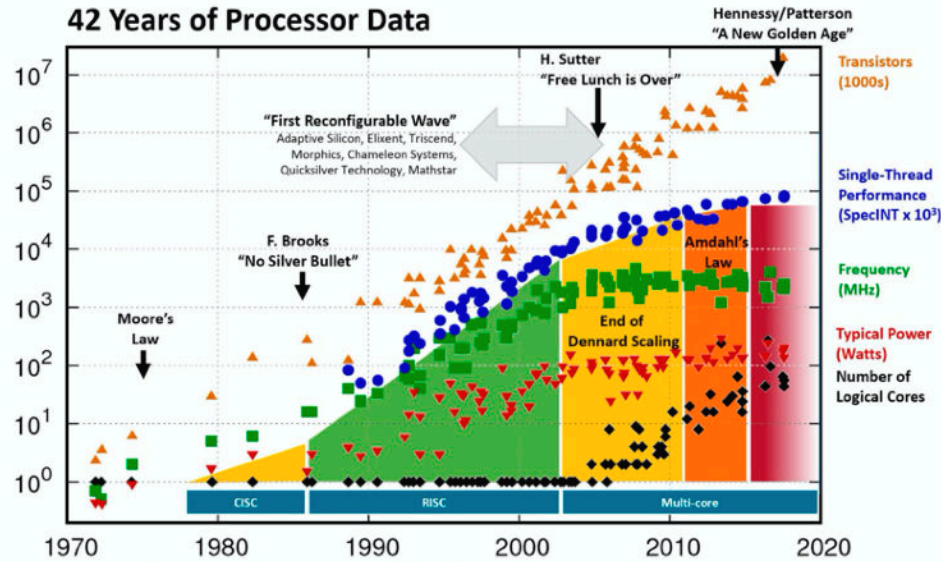
funded by DOE

INDUSTRY COLLABORATION

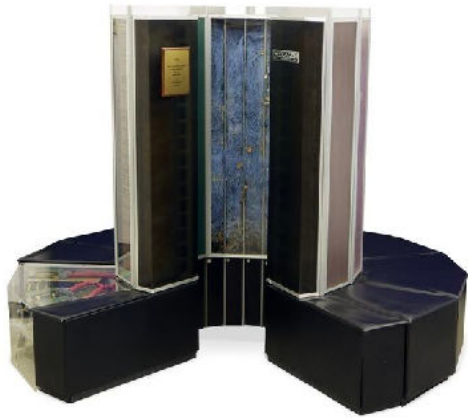
Kairos, Terrapower, Nuscale, GE, ExxonMobil, ...



42 Years of Processor Data



Hennessy and Patterson, Turing Lecture 2018, overlaid over "42 Years of Processors Data"
<https://www.karlsruhp.net/2018/02/42-years-of-microprocessor-trend-data/>; "First Wave" added by Les Wilson, Frank Schirmeister
 Original data up to the year 2010 collected and plotted by M. Horowitz, F. Labonte, O. Shacham, K. Olukotun, L. Hammond, and C. Batten
 New plot and data collected for 2010-2017 by K. Rupp



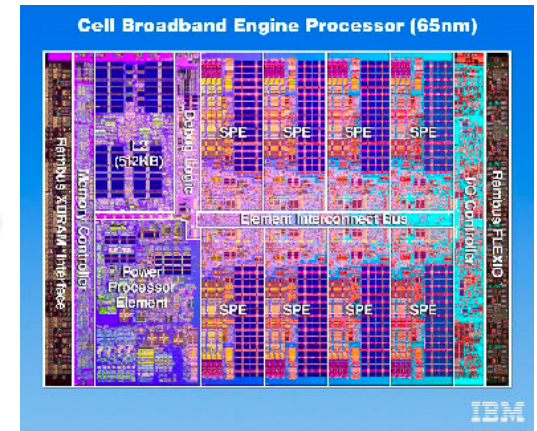
vector

Caltech Hypercube

JPL Mark II 1985
Chuck Seitz 1983

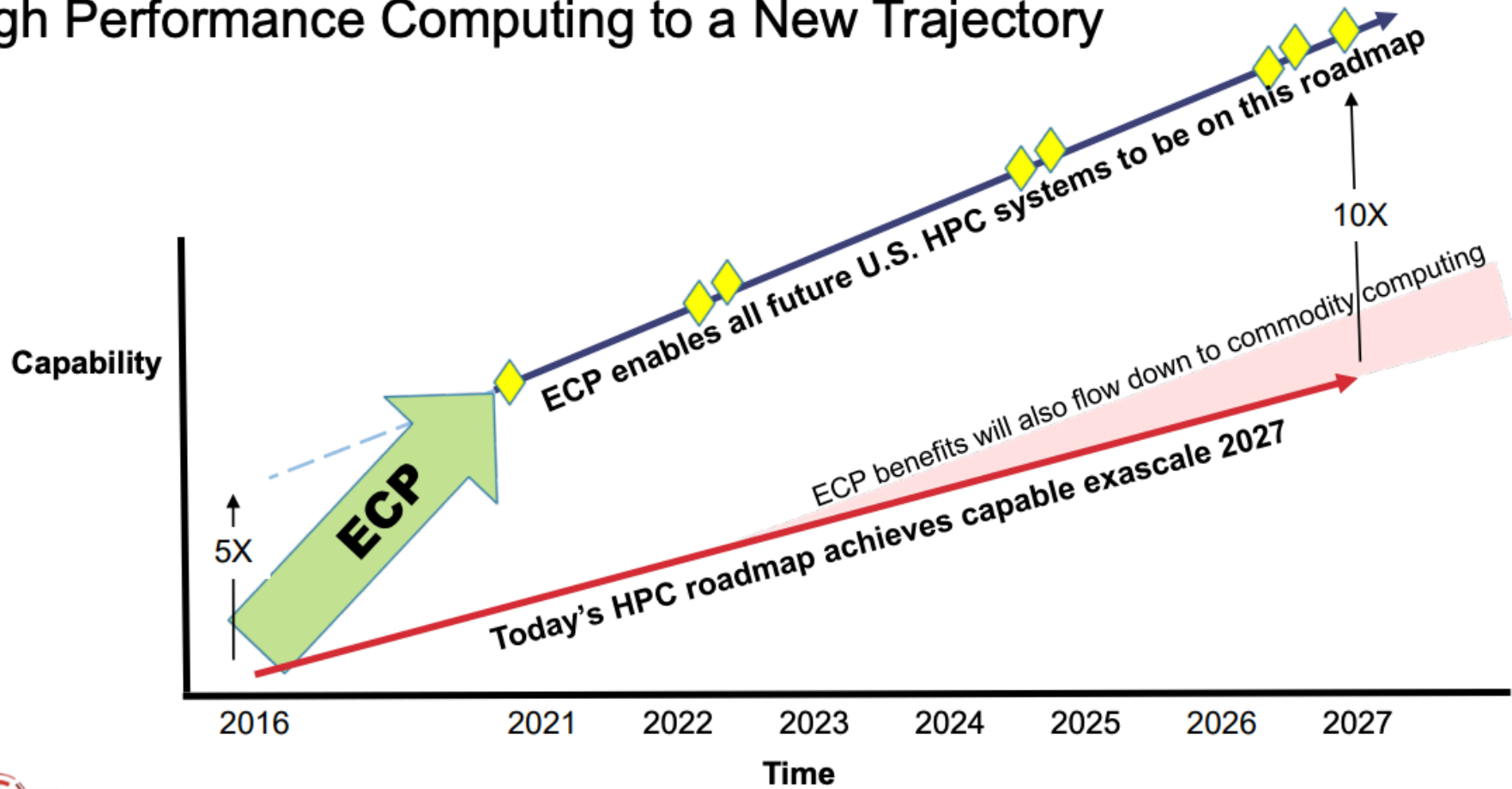
Hypercube as a cube

distributed memory



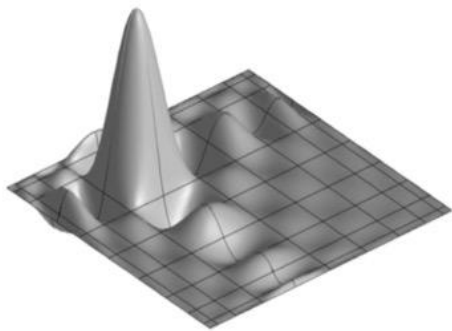
specialization (accelerators)

Vision: Exascale Computing Project (ECP) Lifts all U.S. High Performance Computing to a New Trajectory

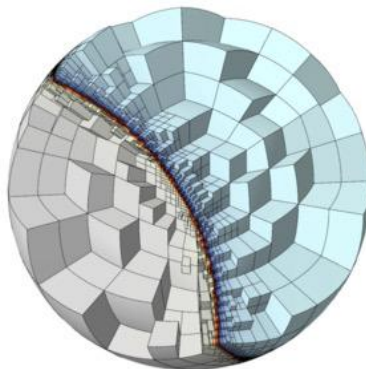




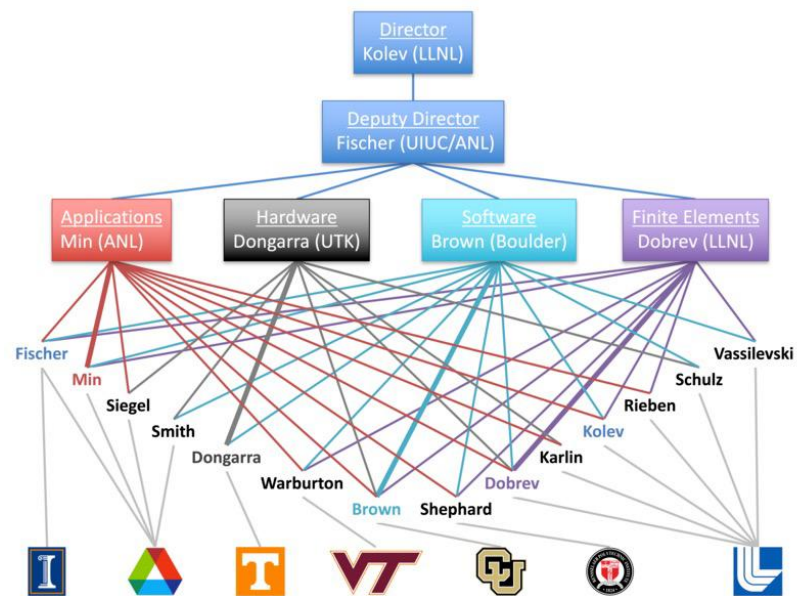
- PDE-based simulations on **unstructured grids**
- **high-order** and **spectral** finite elements
 - ✓ any order space on any order mesh ✓ curved meshes,
 - ✓ unstructured AMR ✓ optimized low-order support



10th order basis function



non-conforming AMR, 2nd order mesh



2 Labs, 5 Universities, 30+ researchers



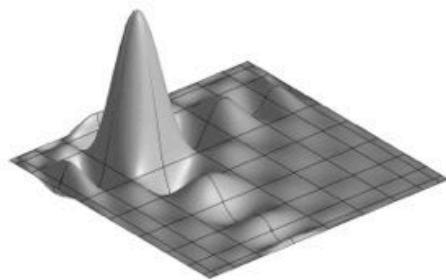
nekRS

- > started as an early fork of *libParanumal*
- > incompressible + low Mach Navier-Stokes solver
- > MPI + (X=OCCA) using CPUs/GPUs
- > autotuning across entire solver stack
- > high-order spectral elements in space
- > overset grids
- > moving and deforming meshes
- > conjugate heat transfer
- > Lagrangian phase model
- > LES and RANS models
- > available under github.com/Nek5000/nekRS

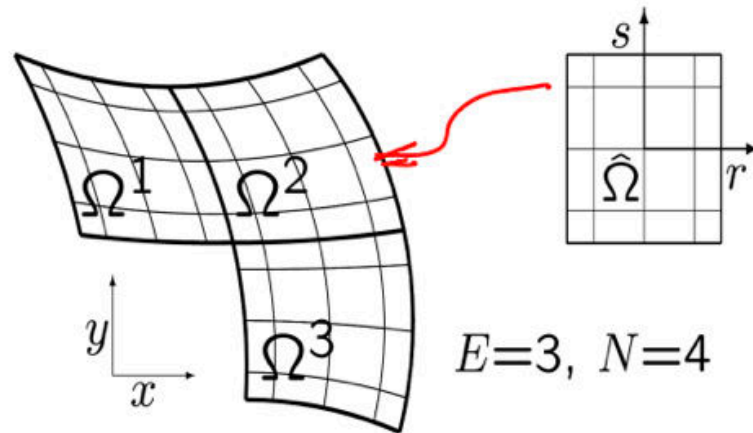
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0167819122000710>

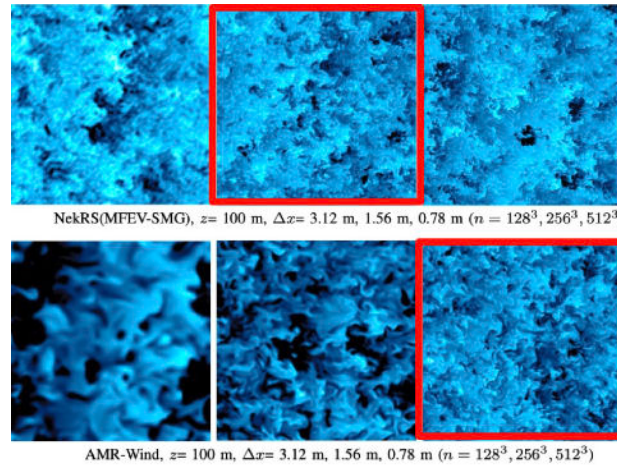
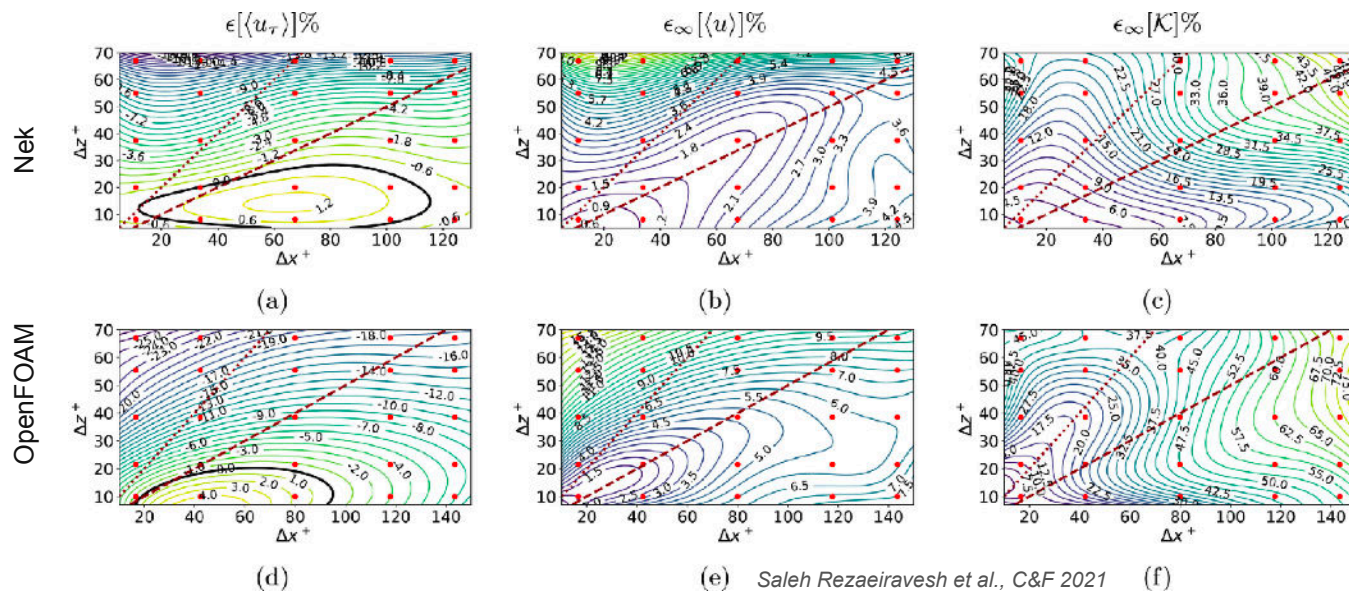
Spectral Element Method

- Variational method, similar to FEM, using Gauss-Lobatto-Legendre points
- Domain partitioned into E (unstructured) high-order elements
- Trial and test function represented as N th order tensor-product polynomials within each element (typically $N=5-9$)
- EN^3 grid points in 3D
- Low dissipation and small dispersion errors
- Fast (matrix-free) operator evaluation: $o(n)$ storage, $o(nN)$ work



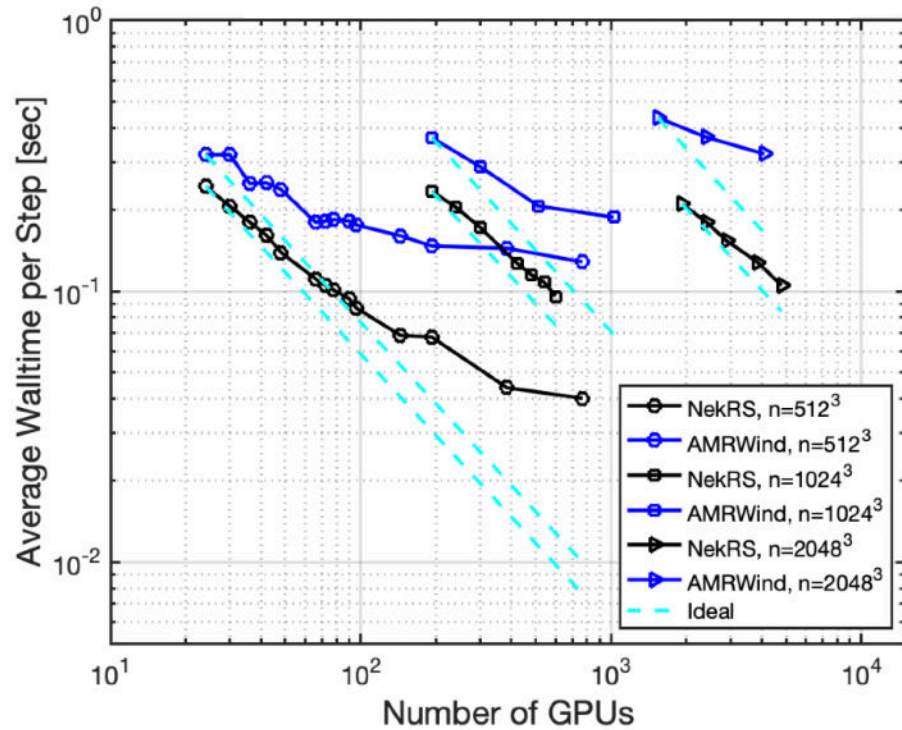
2D basis function, $N=10$





Misun Min et al., arXiv preprint arXiv:2210.00904

Nek requires (e.g. $\sim 8x$) less grid points for the same accuracy



Cost per grid point competitive to low-order methods



CHALLENGES

High-order
mesh
generation

Steady state
solvers

Robustness
to under
resolution

Shock
capturing

Turbulence
wall models

MPI +

CUDA

HIP

Raja

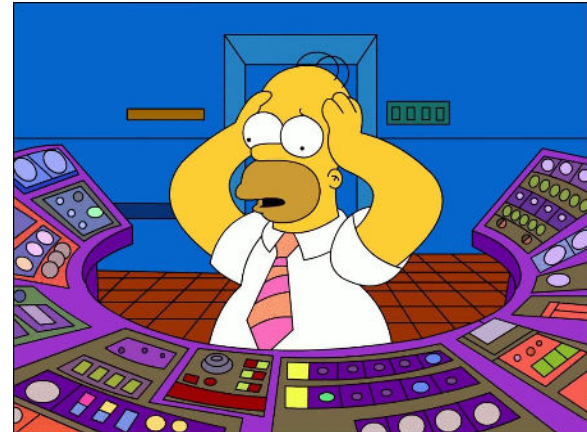
SYCL

openMP

Kokkos

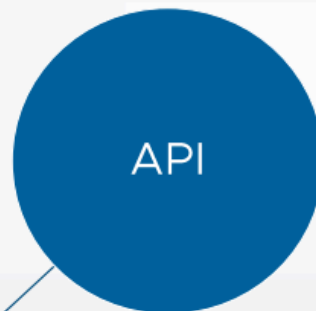
openACC

=



WHAT IS OCCA?

Open
Concurrent
Compute
Architecture



- Unified models for device, memory, etc.
- Backend selection at runtime:
 - Serial, OpenMP
 - CUDA, HIP, OpenCL, Metal
- Lightweight wrappers around backend APIs
- C/C++, Fortran



- Directive based extension to C/C++
- Transparent translation to backend code
- JIT compilation + caching
- Alternatively, write kernels directly with backend specific code

<https://github.com/libocca/occa>



- Hardware info
- Available backends
- Environment variables
- Translate/compile kernels

Periodic Hill at strong scaling limit

E=3.14M

N=7

1.08B gridpoints

ALCF Mira

No. 3 TOP500 2012

16384 out of 49152 nodes (33%)

16384 CPUs (16 cores each 2 hw-threads)

n/P ~ 2k (4k per core)

code: nek5000

ORNL Summit

No. 1 TOP500 2018

88 out of 4600 nodes (2%)

528 GPUs

n/P ~ 2M (25k per SM)

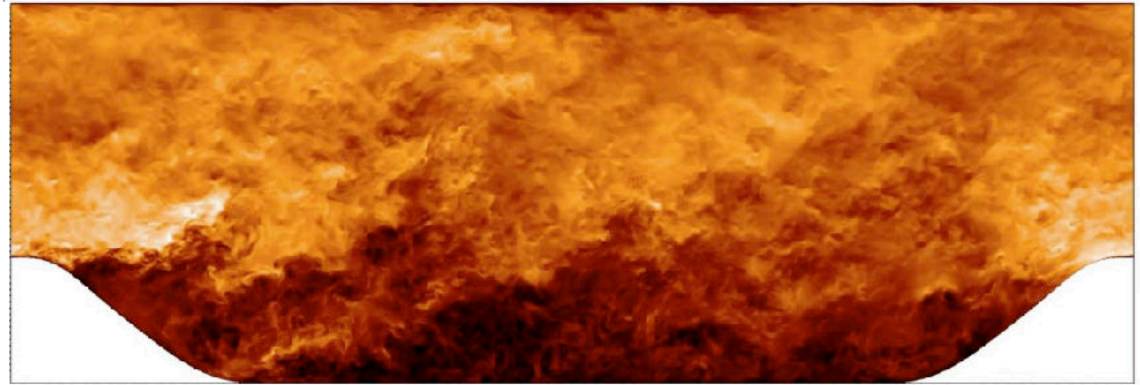
code: nekRS

Summary

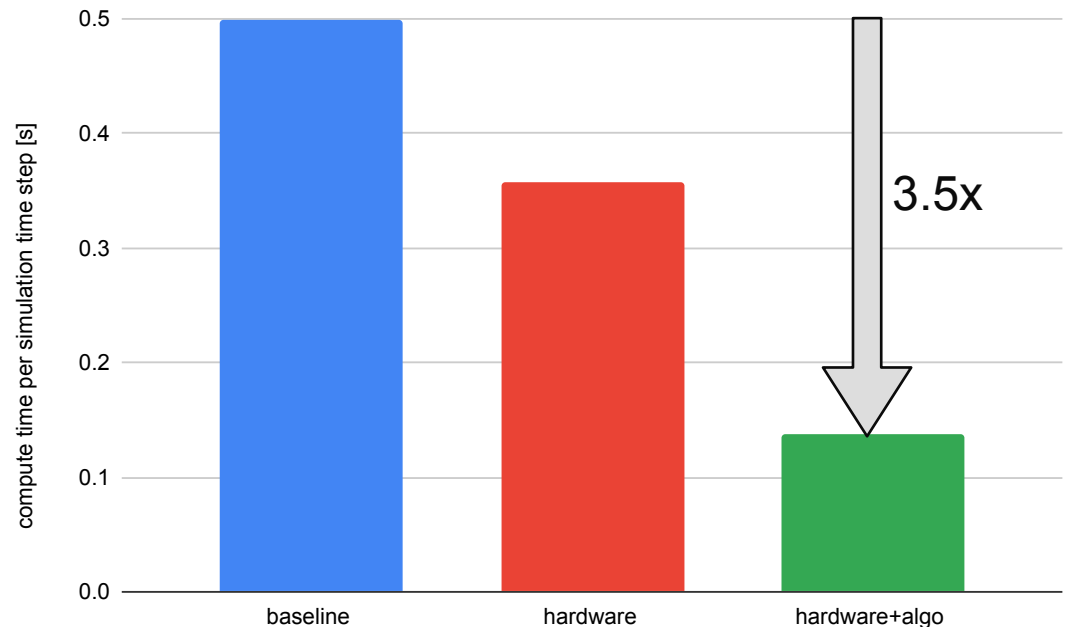
~ From 33% (hero) to 2% (toy) machine usage

~ 3.5x faster

~16x lower energy consumption



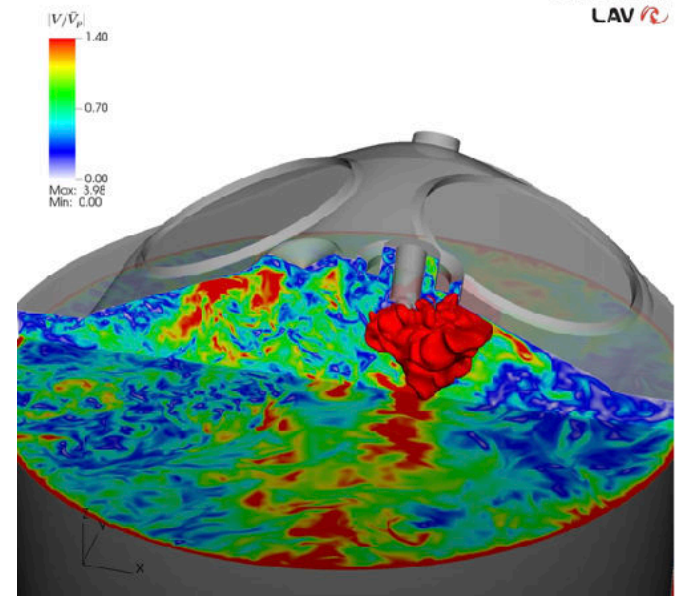
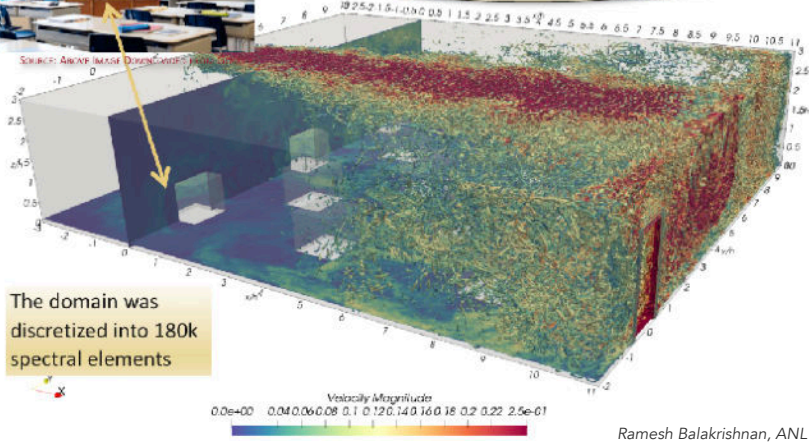
Ramesh Balakrishnan, ANL



CLASSROOM (STAGGERED LAYOUT): LES AT $Re = 100,000$



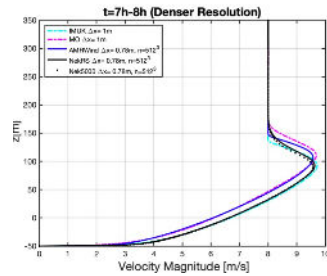
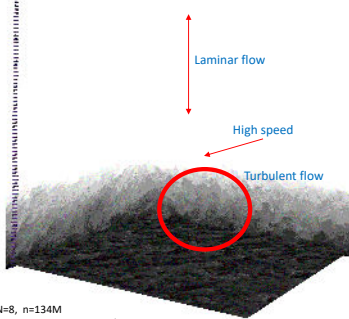
There could be an increased risk of infection to someone in the dead zone. The risk is higher with hotter incoming air.



Wind Energy Application

Atmospheric Boundary Layer Flows

GABLS benchmark problem
Domain: 400m x 400m x 400

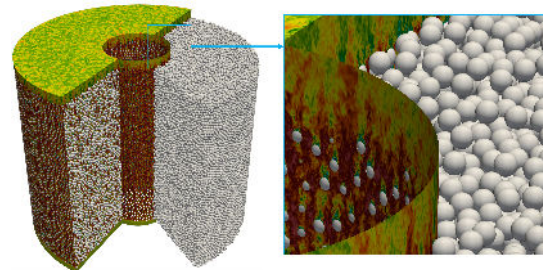


Flow analysis with spatial and time-averaged velocity (Ananias Tomboulides, Misun Min)

E=64³, N=8, n=134M
NekRS simulation using 60 GPUs/V100s on Summit
Neil Lindquist (UTK)

Nuclear Energy Application

Pebble Bed Simulations on Full Summit



- 352,625 spherical pebbles
- $E=99 M$ elements
- $N=51 B$ gridpoints
- 1.4 TB per snapshot (FP32)
- $P=27648 V100s$ (all of Summit)

- High quality all-hex mesh generated by tessellation of Voronoi facets that are projected onto the sphere or domain boundaries to yield hexahedral elements

- ~300 elements / sphere

- Turbulent flow in the interstitial region between the randomly-packed spheres.

Figure 8: Turbulent flow in an annular packed bed with $N = 352625$ spheres meshed with $E = 98,782,067$ spectral elements of order $N = 8$ ($n = 50$ billion gridpoints). This NekRS simulation requires 0.233 seconds per step using 27648 V100s on Summit. The average number of pressure iterations per step is 6.

MS121
Mon 1:50pm
Paul Fischer

MS220
Wed 5:20pm
YuHsiang Lan

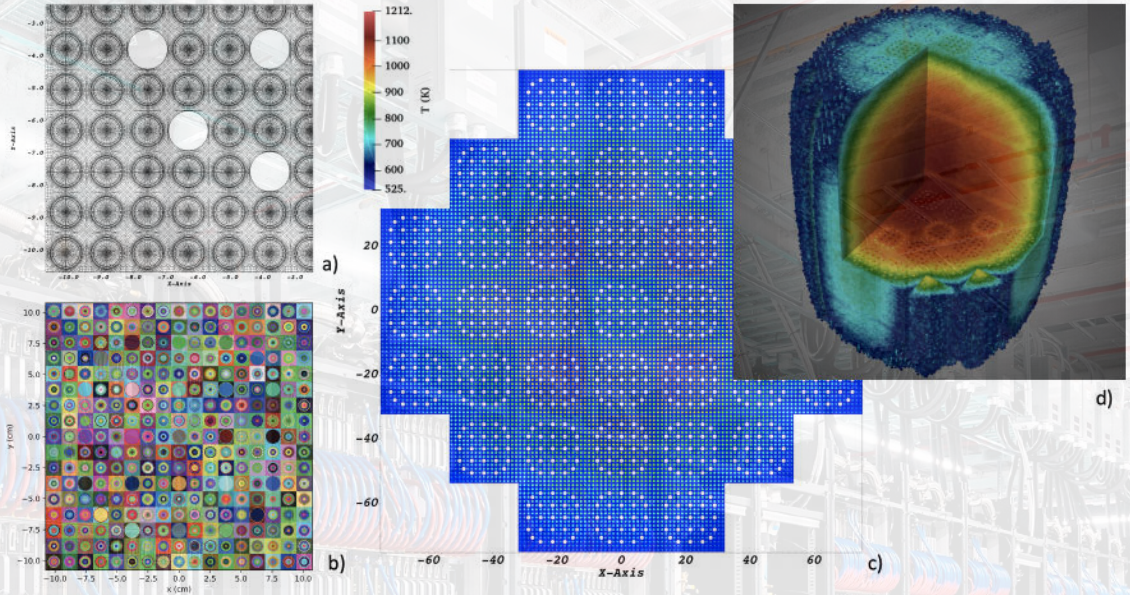
Y. Lan, P. Fischer, E. Merzari, M. Min: All hex meshing strategies for densely-packed spheres. Int. Meshing Roundtable, 2021.

Exascale Multiphysics Nuclear Reactor Simulations for Advanced Designs

Elia Merzari^{a,*}, Steven Hamilton^b, Thomas Evans^b, Paul Romano^c, Paul Fischer^{d,e,f}, Misun Min^d, Stefan Kerkemeier^d, Yu-Hsiang Lan^d, Jun Fang^g, Malachi Phillips^e, Thilina Rathnayake^e, Elliott Biondo^b, Katherine Royston^b, Noel Chalmers^h, Tim Warburtonⁱ

GB
Finalist
2023

- Largest reactor fluid flow simulation to date
- Coupled physics (neutron transport)
- ~350B gridpoints
- 9000 nodes (90%) of ORNL's Frontier



Assembly and full core simulations with ENRICO. a) Detail of CFD model in NekRS including interior of each pin. b) Assembly Monte Carlo model. c) Temperature distribution in a cross section of the core. d) Total neutron interaction rate in the core computed by Shift.

Ongoing Work

- Documentation & training
- Tune performance for ANL's supercomputer Aurora
- Extend mixed precision capabilities
- Wall models for RANS and LES
- Extended physics: magnetohydrodynamics, chemical reactive flows, ...
- In-situ visualization
- Coupling to ML frameworks

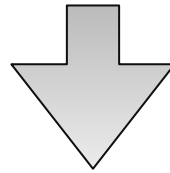
Relevant Trends & Implications



Hardware vendors focus on AI/ML workloads



High demand for complex (multiphysics) simulations



Moderate performance improvements in particular when it comes to *time-to-solution*



Fast changing (unstable) environment & 3rd-party integration increases cost and complexity



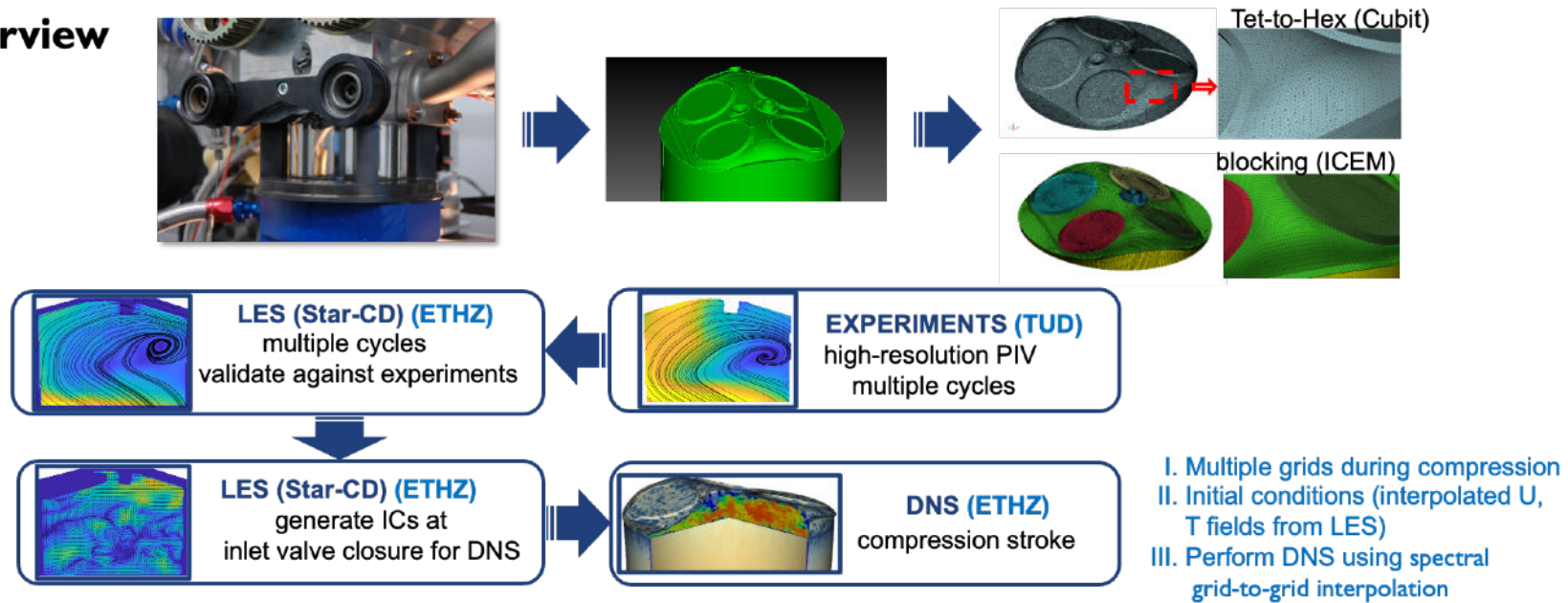
Meshing and post-processing capabilities need to keep up



nekRS@JSC
Mathis Bode (JSC)

Application example at JSC: TU Darmstadt Engine

Overview



Application example at JSC: TU Darmstadt Engine

Non-reactive nekRS full engine simulations

DNS of the compression-expansion stroke @2500 rpm (12 cycles)

4 moving meshes with up to

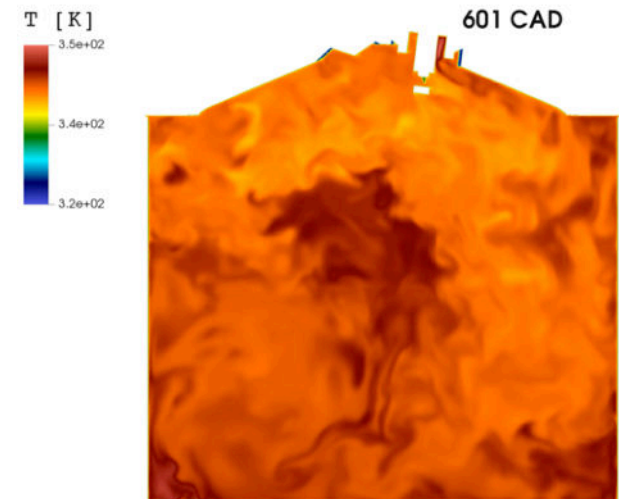
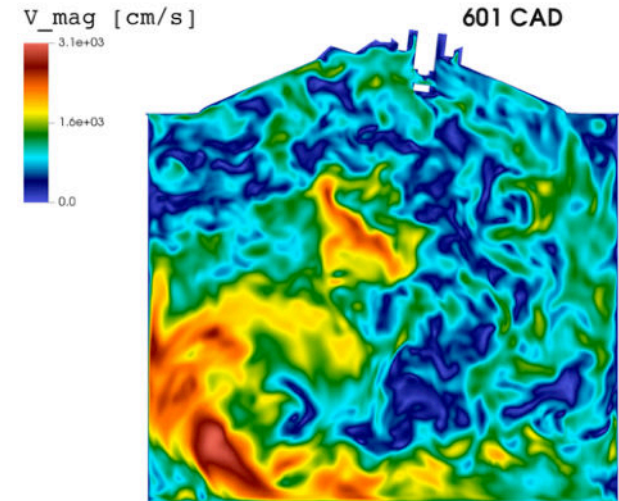
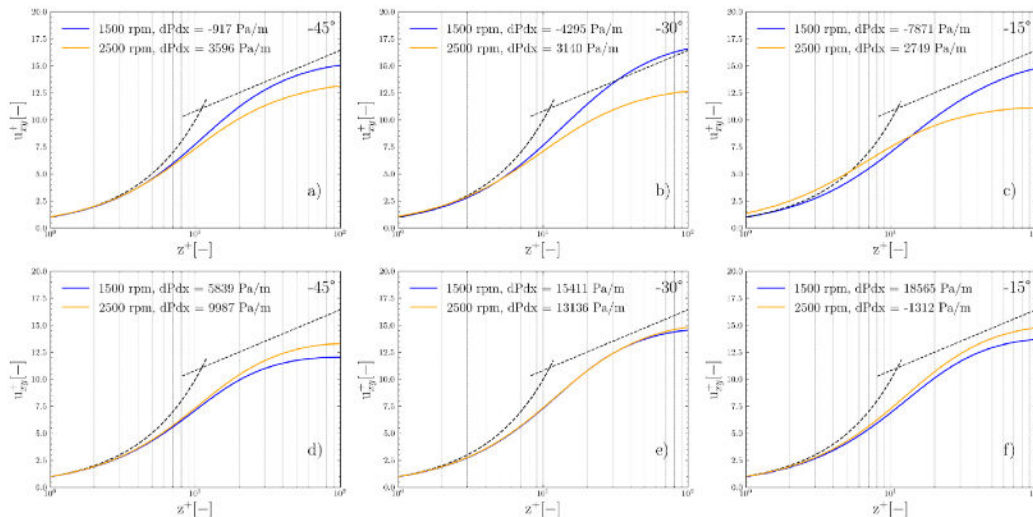
$E = 9.3$ million spectral elements

$N = 9 \rightarrow 6.8$ billion grid points

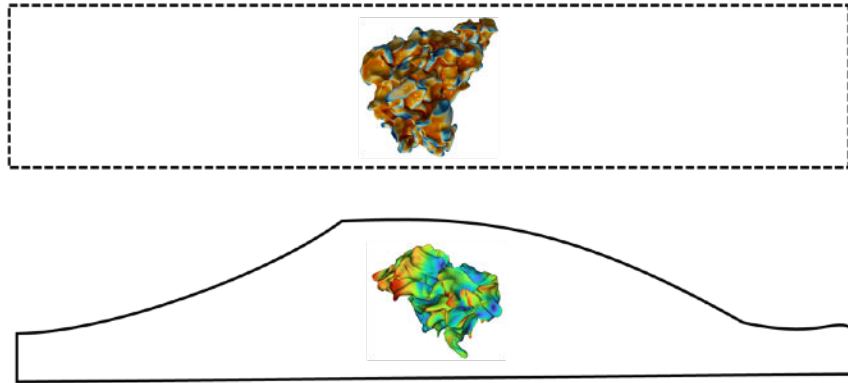
44 Tb / cycle - CAD resolved

0.27 GPU-Mcore-h / cycle (based on #cores/ CPU)

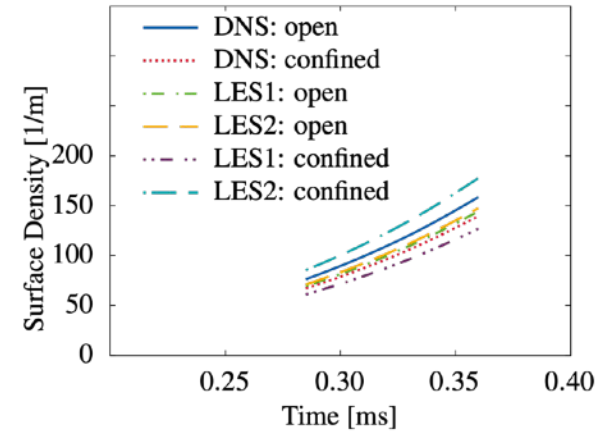
Analysis of boundary layers, turbulence, ...



Application example at JSC: TU Darmstadt Engine



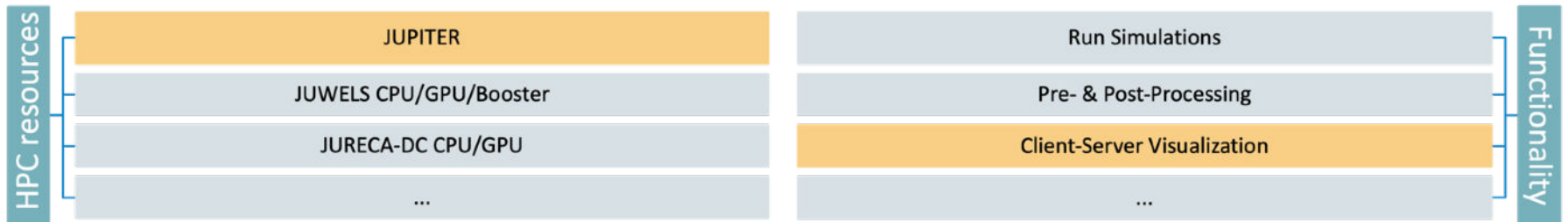
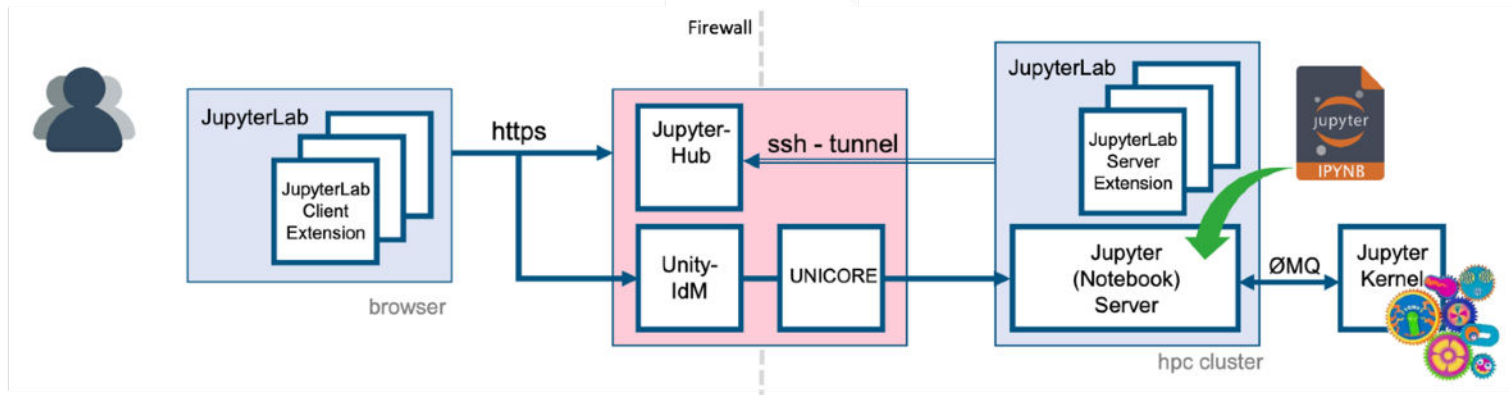
Sketch of model evaluation simulations



Evaluation of multiple LES models with OpenFOAM@JSC

Combining nekRS with other codes such as OpenFOAM to have optimal time-to-solution and wide functionality!

Jupyter-CoEC: Simplify the usage of nekRS@JSC



Jupyter-CoEC is simple-to-use, simple-to-access in any browser!

Jupyter-CoEC: Simplify the usage of nekRS@JSC



The Center of Excellence in Combustion (CoEC) has been created in order to apply exascale computing technologies to promote and develop advanced simulation software that can support the decarbonisation goals of the European Union within the energy and transportation sectors.

<https://coec-project.eu>

➤ <https://jupyter-coec.jsc.fz-juelich.de/>

Why nekRS?

nekRS is a true exascale code

Good performance at all scales

Wide applicability: From academia to industry. From boundary layers and convection processes to combustion and reactors.

Simple to use: Easy access via Jupyter-CoEC!

nekRS support @JSC:

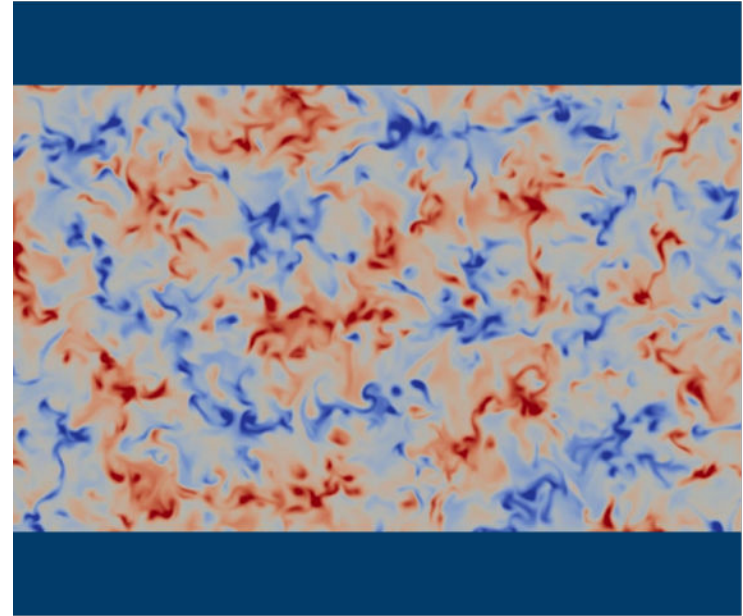
General support and help

Powerful workflows

Assistance with computing time, good performance and scaling

Target code for exascale supercomputer JUPITER!

Contact: m.bode@fz-juelich.de



nek5000.mcs.anl.gov