



# Kokkos, HPSF & CExA

Or: How We Learned To Stop Worrying  
And Love Productive, Performance-portable  
GPU Programming

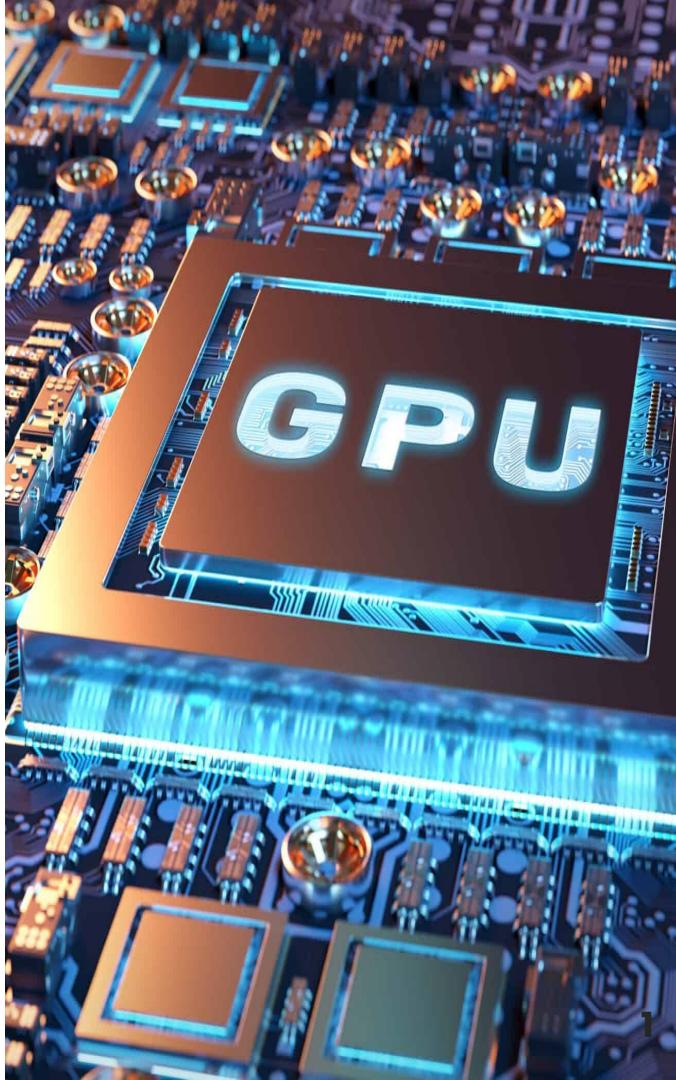


P3HPC'24 Workshop  
Atlanta  
November 18<sup>th</sup> 2024



Computing at  
Exascale with  
Accelerators  
at the **CEA**

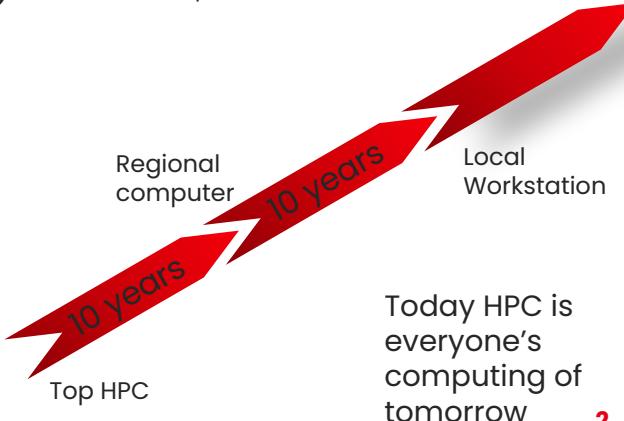
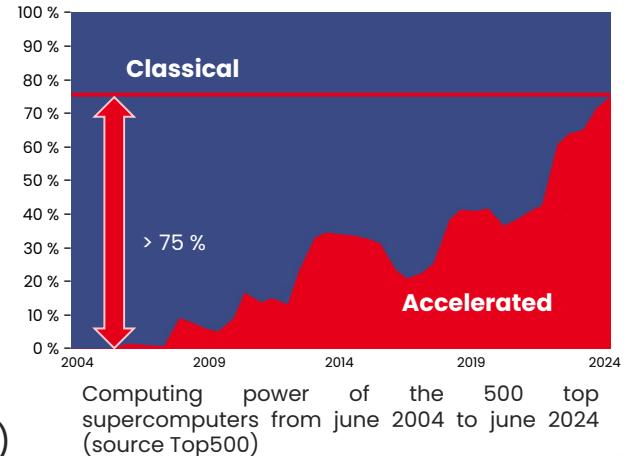
Julien Bigot, the CExA & Kokkos team



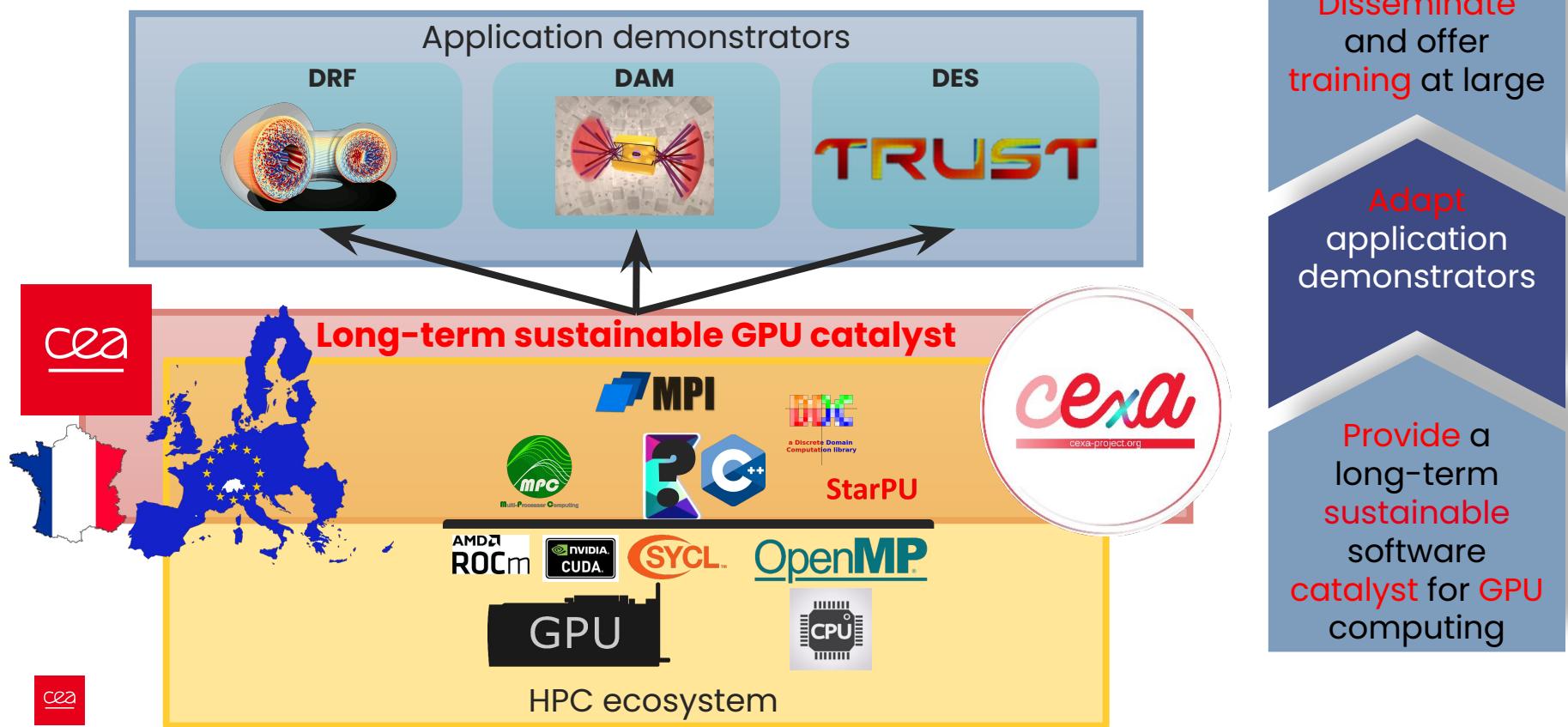
# Context (2 years ago)

Come visit us  
at booth 4143

- **CEA**: French Atomic Energy Commissary ("French DoE")
  - Around **20k researchers**, 9 research centers all over France
  - Organized in **4 divisions**: military applications (**DAM**), energies (**DES**), fundamental research (**DRF**) & technological developments (**DRT**)
  - **HPC** is a tool largely used **all over CEA**
- We just entered the **Exascale** era, that means **GPU**
  - **US Exascale**: AMD & Intel, **EU pre-Exascale**: AMD & Nvidia
  - 2 **Exascale** machines planned in **EU** for 2025
    - Jupiter machine in **Germany**, at Jülich => **Nvidia + SiPearl**(Rhea)
    - Jules Vernes machine in **France**, at **CEA/TGCC** (**open** call)
  - Need to re-develop applications with **Performance portability**
- GPU middleware: **software catalysts**
  - France and Europe: great research but no production tool
  - App developers are sitting on Buridan's ass
- A **need** for a long-term sustainable solution
  - **Adapted** to our hardware and software specificities
  - **Trust** in the roadmap



# CExA project: goals



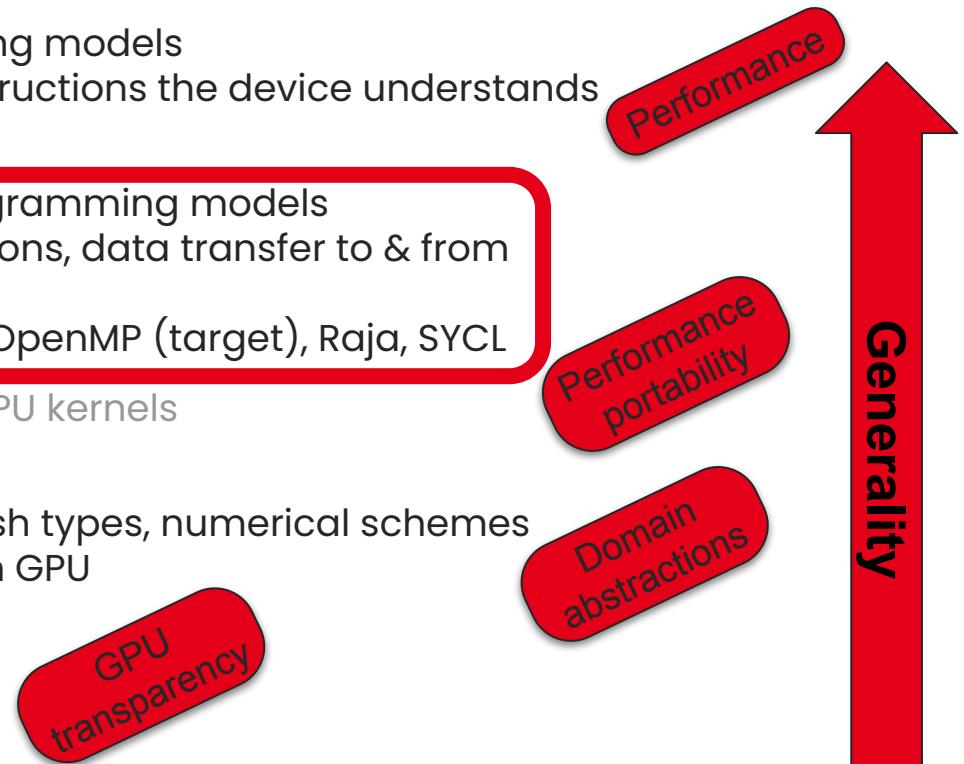
# GPU programming, a vast choice of approaches

- Low-level, assembly-style programming models
  - Nearly manipulate the actual instructions the device understands
  - E.g. HSA, Level Zero, PTX, Spir-V , ...
- General-purpose, imperative GPU programming models
  - Manipulate parallel loops, reductions, data transfer to & from device
  - E.g. Cuda, HIP, Kokkos, OpenACC, OpenMP (target), Raja, SYCL
- Combination & assembly of existing GPU kernels
  - Pytorch, StarPU, etc...
- Application framework for specific mesh types, numerical schemes
  - Use domain-specific concepts on GPU
- Pre-written GPU libraries
  - just call them from CPU
  - Neural Networks, Linear Algebra, ...

Ease of use

cea

4



# Imperative GPU programming, a vast choice of approaches

- Cuda
- HIP
- Kokkos
- OpenACC
- OpenMP (target)
- Raja
- SYCL
  - OneAPI/DPC++
  - AdaptiveC++/OpenSYCL/hipSYCL

# Imperative GPU programming, a vast choice of approaches

- Cuda
- HIP
- Kokkos
- OpenACC
- OpenMP (target)
- **Raja**
- SYCL
  - OneAPI/DPC++
  - **AdaptiveC++ (was OpenSYCL/hipSYCL)**
- Production grade, with public support

# Imperative GPU programming, a vast choice of approaches

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- OpenMP (target)
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- SYCL
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- Production grade, with public support
- **Vendor neutral**

# Imperative GPU programming, a vast choice of approaches

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# OpenMP & Kokkos: the simplest GPU loop

```
for (int j = 0 ; j < Nj ; ++j) {  
    // [...]  
}
```

Sequential



```
#pragma omp teams distribute parallel for  
for (int j = 0 ; j < Nj ; ++j) {  
    // [...]  
}
```

OpenMP Target

```
parallel_for(Nj, KOKKOS_LAMBDA(int j) {  
    // [...]  
});
```

Kokkos

Execute in **parallel**, on a separate GPU thread each,

the same workload **[ . . . ]**

identified by a unique identifier **j**

**Nj** times between 0 and Nj-1

# OpenMP & Kokkos: memory transfer

```
double* x = malloc(Ni*sizeof(double));
double* y = malloc(Nj*sizeof(double));
double* A = omp_target_alloc(
    Ni*Nj*sizeof(double),
    omp_get_initial_device());

#pragma omp target data \
    map(to: x[0:Ni]) \
    map(from: y[0:Nj])
{
#pragma omp teams distribute parallel for
for (int j = 0 ; j < Nj ; ++j) {
    for (int i = 0 ; i < Ni ; ++i) {
        y[j] += x[i] * A[j*Ni+i];
    }
}
```

OpenMP Target

```
View<double*, Kokkos::HostSpace> x(Ni);
View<double*, Kokkos::HostSpace> y(Nj);
View<double*> A(Nj, Ni);

{
auto dx = create_mirror_view_and_copy(dev, x);
auto dy = create_mirror_view(dev, y);
parallel_for(Nj, KOKKOS_LAMBDA(int j) {
    for (int i = 0 ; i < Ni ; ++i) {
        dy(j) += dx(i) * A(j,i);
    }
});
deep_copy(y, dy);
}
```

Kokkos

Copy x to GPU from device before kernel  
and y from GPU to device after kernel

Keep A on the device

# Compilation

## Kokkos

- A C++ template library
  - No direct code generation
  - rely on vendors C++-like languages
- Multiple “backends”
  - Selection at compile time
  - OpenMP, Cuda, OneAPI, HIP, ...
- Maximum 3 backends enabled at once
  - Serial backend
  - 1 Host parallel backend (openmp)
  - 1 Device parallel backend (cuda, HIP, Sycl)

## OpenMP Target

- Use an OpenMP compiler
  - Compatible with the target construct
  - Compatible with the hardware you target
- Each vendor provides its own OpenMP compiler
  - Usually based on LLVM infra
- Default Clang/LLVM & GCC also try to support this
  - For some hardware

# Imperative GPU programming, a vast choice of approaches

- Cuda
- HIP
- **Kokkos**
- OpenACC
- **OpenMP (target)**
- Raja
- SYCL
  - OneAPI/DPC++
  - AdaptiveC++/OpenSYCL/hipSYCL
- Production grade, with public support
- Vendor neutral
- **Annotations**
  - Works best with **imperative languages**: C, Fortran, ...
  - Requires to **re-design applications** for GPU
  - **Compiler integration**: potential for additional optimizations
- **Library**
  - Suited to language with deep **encapsulation**: C++
  - Requires to **re-design applications** for GPU
  - On top of vendor **backends**: easier to port to new hardware

# Kokkos parallel patterns

```
parallel_for(Nj, KOKKOS_LAMBDA(int j) {  
    // [...]  
}) ;
```

# Kokkos parallel patterns

```
parallel_for(Nj, KOKKOS_LAMBDA(int j) {  
    // [...]  
});
```

```
parallel_reduce(Nj, KOKKOS_LAMBDA(int j, double& accumulator) {  
    // [...]  
    accumulator += /* [...] */;  
}, result);
```

```
parallel_scan(Nj, KOKKOS_LAMBDA(int j, double& result, bool isfinal)  
{  
    // [...]  
    accumulator += /* [...] */;  
    if(is_final) {  
        // [...]  
    }  
}, result);
```

- For
  - independent iterations
- Reduce
  - Accumulate into a single value
- Scan
  - N independent prefix reduction

# Kokkos parallel patterns: easy debug

```
parallel_for("loop1", Nj, KOKKOS_LAMBDA(int j) {  
    // [...]  
});
```

- Naming loops ease debugging & profiling
- Integrated with kokkos-specific tools
- Get a trace with names includes
- Get a name in debug messages
- Omitted in the presentation, but a good practice overall

# Kokkos parallel patterns: Policies

```
parallel_for(RangePolicy(1, Nj, chunk_size), KOKKOS_LAMBDA(int j) {  
    // [...]  
});
```

Beyond simple 1D execution

- RangePolicy for 1D iteration
  - Begin / end iteration boundaries
  - Chunk\_size hint for improved performance
- MDRange policy for multi-dimensional iterations
  - Multi-D begin / end iteration boundaries
  - Tiling hint hint for improved performance

# Kokkos parallel patterns: ExecutionSpace

```
parallel_for(RangePolicy(DefaultExecutionSpace(), 0, Nj), KOKKOS_LAMBDA(int j) {  
    // [...]  
});
```

- ExecutionSpace defines where to run
  - Cuda, HIP, SYCL, HPX, OpenMP, OpenMPTarget, Threads, Serial
  - 3 exec spaces per execution max: Serial + parallel Host + parallel Device
- Choose where to run at compile time with a #define
  - Usually set from CMake
- 2 predefined aliases are often enough
  - DefaultExecutionSpace: parallel Device, or parallel Host, or Serial
    - Most of the time, this is the default
  - DefaultHostExecutionSpace: parallel Host, or Serial
    - When using host-only code

# Kokkos parallel patterns: hierarchical parallelism

```
parallel_for(TeamPolicy(Nj, team_size), KOKKOS_LAMBDA(const team_handle& team) {
    // [...]
    parallel_for(TeamThreadRange(team, Ni, chunk_size), KOKKOS_LAMBDA(int i) {
        // [...]
    });
    // [...]
});
```

- Default loops can not be nested
- 2-level nesting is supported by teams of threads
  - Matches groups / threads support in GPU
  - But also available on CPU
  - Intermediate (scratch) memory allocation available

o

# Kokkos parallel patterns are asynchronous

```
parallel_for(Nj, KOKKOS_LAMBDA(int j) {
    // [...]
});
parallel_for(Nj, KOKKOS_LAMBDA(int j) {
    // [...]
});
fence();
```

- Asynchronous execution
- Result visibility is only assured after a fence
- Or between kernels running on the same execution space

# Kokkos views: multi-dimensional arrays

```
View<int**, MemorySpace> my_matrix("matrix", Nx, Ny);
```

- Multi-dimensional arrays
  - Type & dimensionality specified: int\*\* => 2D integer array
  - Dynamic sizes are parameters: Nx, Ny
  - Static sizes are also possible: int\*[4] => 2D array, 4 × dynamic
- Behaves like a C++ shared\_ptr
  - Shared ownership with reference counting (like in python)
- With a name for debugging/profiling
- MemorySpace is part of the type, defaults should be used
  - CudaSpace, CudaHostPinnedSpace, CudaUVMSpace, HIPSpace, HIPHostPinnedSpace, HIPManagedSpace, SYCLDeviceUSMSpace, SYCLHostUSMSpace, SYCLSharedUSMSpace, **HostSpace**, **SharedSpace**, SharedHostPinnedSpace
  - Check of accessibility between MemorySpace & ExecutionSpace

# Kokkos views copies & co.

```
auto dview = subview(oview, pair(start, end), ALL, slice_idx);
```

- Make a new reference to a subset of an existing view
  - Modifying the result modifies the source
  - pair: select a subrange, ALL: keep the dimension, integer: slice the dimension

```
void deep_copy(const ExecSpace &exec_space, const ViewDest &dest, const ViewSrc &src);
```

- Copy data between 2 views
  - Potentially on distinct memory spaces
  - An asynchronous operation

```
auto dview = create_mirror(mspace, a_view); // allocates & copy a new view of same size  
auto dview = create_mirror_view_and_copy(mspace, a_view); // allocates & copy if necessary
```

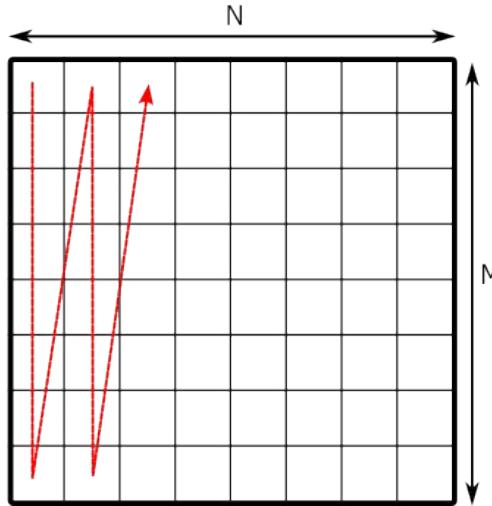
- Allocates & copy to a new memory space

# Kokkos views layout

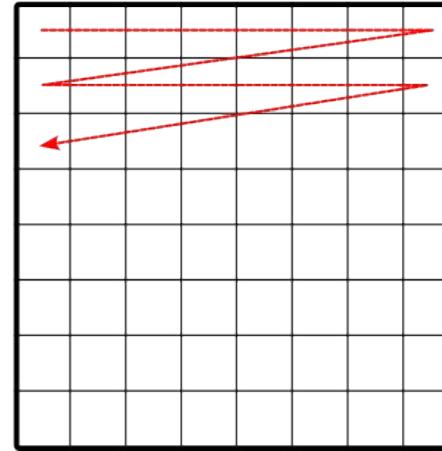
```
View<double**, LayoutLeft> A("A", M, N);
```

- Layout specifies the linearization of multi-D indices into memory
  - LayoutLeft (a.k.a Fortran, default on GPU)
  - LayoutRight (a.k.a C, default on Host)
  - LayoutStride (generic, useful for subviews)

Layout left  
Column major in 2D  
(Fortran)  
Device default layout



Layout right  
Raw major in 2D  
(C, C++, Python, Java)  
Host default layout



# What's in Kokkos (core library)?

## Multi-dimensional arrays

- Layout auto change for performance

## Parallel patterns w. asynchronous support

- Independent interactions, Reductions, Scans

## Iteration strategies

- Tiled, Hierarchical, ...

# What's in Kokkos (core library)?

Multi-dimensional arrays

- Layout auto change for performance

Other containers

- Key-value maps, ScatterView ...

Automatic ref-counted Host/Device memory allocation & management

Host/device memory transfers

Support of "dual" arrays with one version on each side

- Up-to-date tracking & automatic transfers when required

Scratch memory

- Using "team-local" fast memory on the device

Parallel patterns w. asynchronous support

- Independent interactions, Reductions, Scans

Iteration strategies

- Tiled, Hierarchical, ...

Algorithms

- Sorting
- Random number generation
- Many of STL parallel algorithms
- ...

QoL features: portable printf, etc.

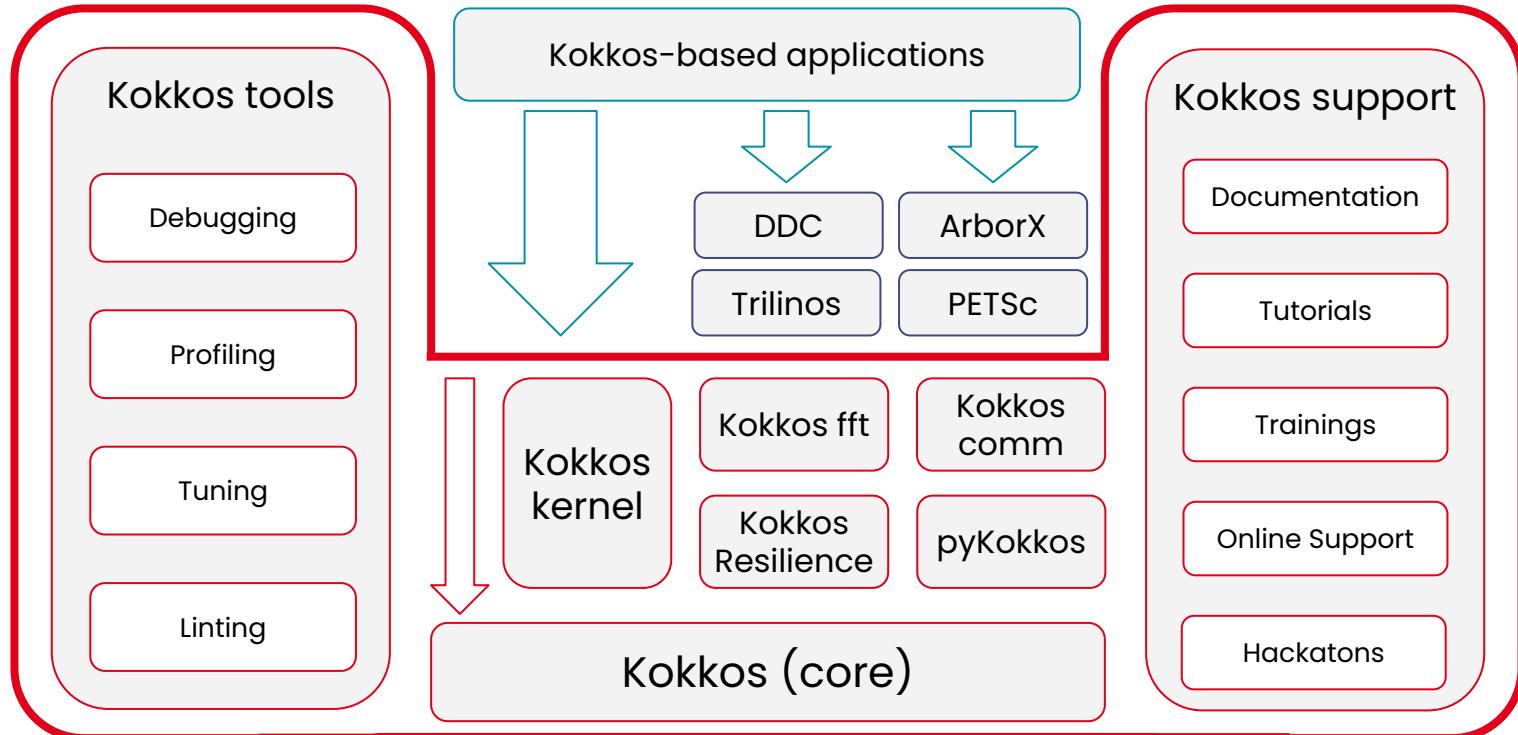
Portable atomic operations

SIMD

Coarse & fine-grain tasks

And much more...

# Kokkos Ecosystem, beyond just the Kokkos project



AMD  
ROCm

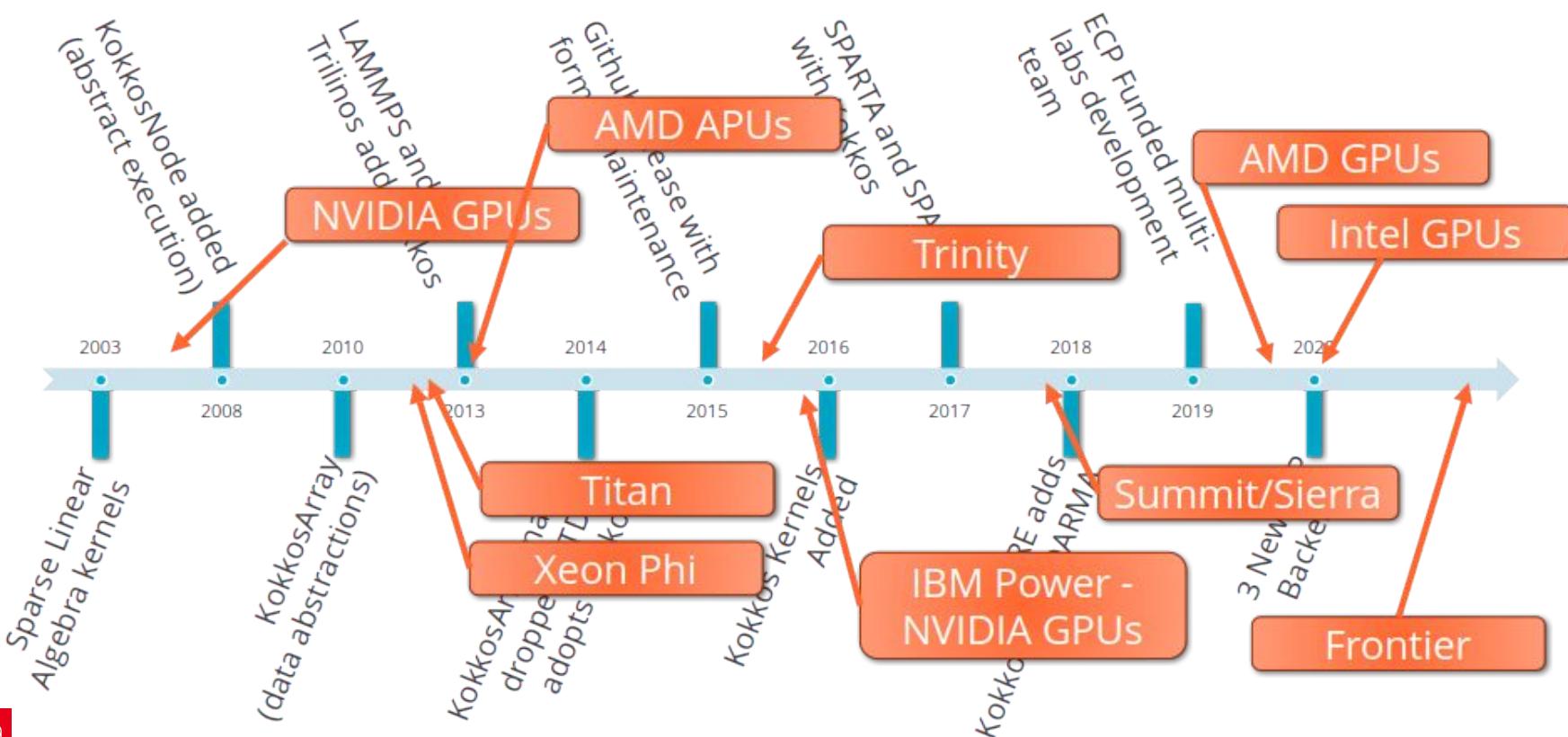
NVIDIA  
CUDA

SYCL™

OpenMP®



# Kokkos: a library with a history



# Kokkos an anteroom for standard C++

ISO C++ is **standardizing** base tools for HPC

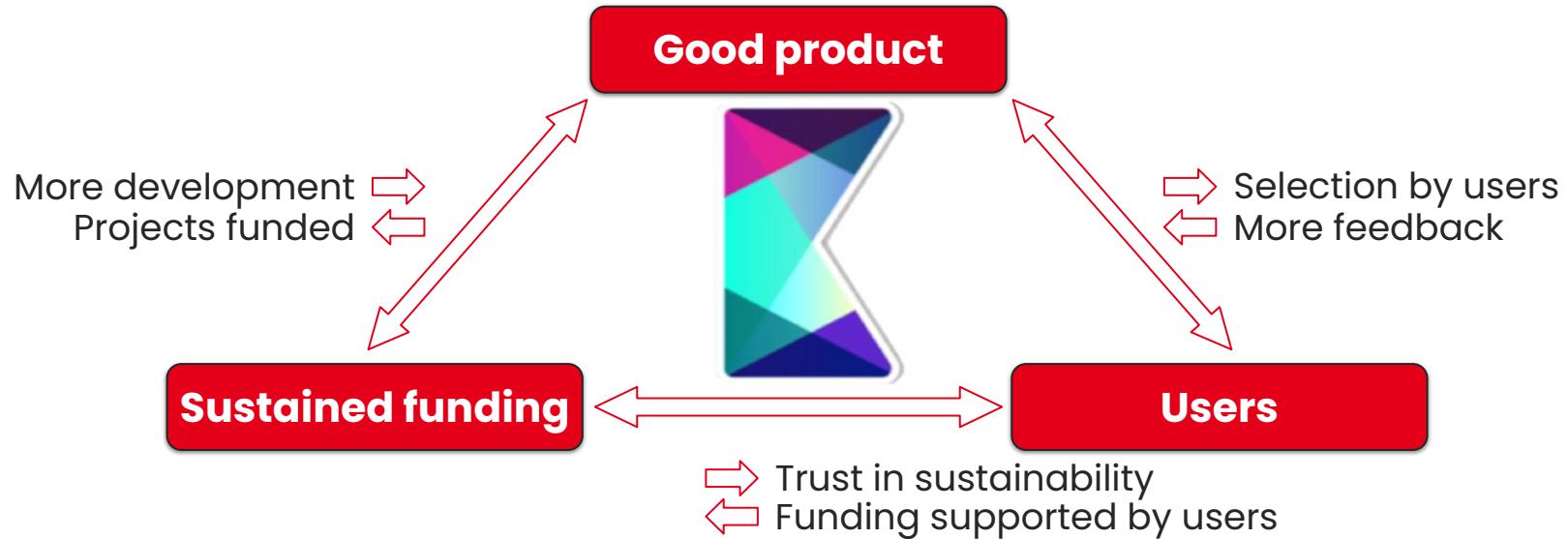
- Parallel programming is entering the **ISO C++ language**
  - Parallel algorithms, sender/receivers, etc.
- The **Kokkos team** spearheads the standardization of many **features**
  - Multi-D arrays (`std::mdspan`)
  - Vectorization (`std::simd`)
  - Linear algebra (`std::linalg`)
  - And much more to come (mixed precision, etc.)

Kokkos offers a **stable API today** for the features of the **C++ of tomorrow**

- Standardization is slow (9 years for `mdspan`)
  - Consensus with all communities
- Kokkos offers the features **today**
  - And keeps maintaining a **stable API** on top of standardized ISO C++
  - With added interoperability layers (Cf. `kokkos::view` / `std::mdspan`)
  - And in a **GPU-compatible** implementation (Cf. `kokkos::array`)



# Kokkos at the center of a virtuous cycle



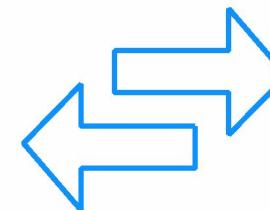
**There is strength in numbers:  
collaboration on core products is good for everyone**

# Here comes HPSF

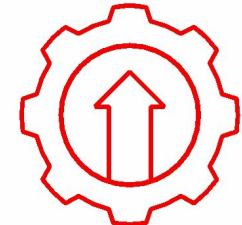
Come visit us  
at booth 4648



Performance



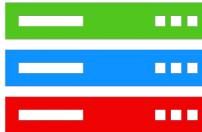
Portability



Productivity

1. A neutral hub for open source, high performance software.
2. HPSF supports projects that advance portable software for diverse hardware by:
  - Increasing adoption
  - Aiding community growth
  - Enabling development efforts
3. Lowering barriers to productive use of today's and future high performance computing systems.

**Under the Linux Foundation**



# HPSF

HIGH PERFORMANCE  
SOFTWARE FOUNDATION

Fund & vote

## Members

Premier



Hewlett Packard  
Enterprise



General



Associate



## Governing board

Participate & vote

WG

## Technical Advisory Council

Outreach

Diversity

CI &  
Testing

Events

Tools

...

## Projects

Viskores



Spack



E4S



kokkos

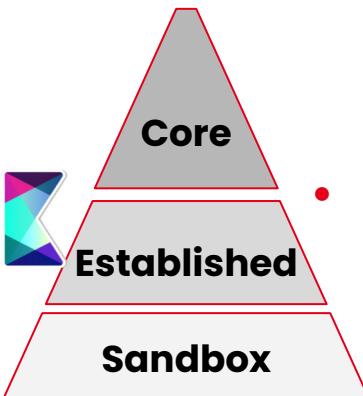
APPTAINER

# Two (**independant**) ways to participate

Find out more:  
HPSF BoF,  
Tuesday 5:15PM,  
B309

- Joining as a member (for institutions)
  - You need to join the Linux Foundation (Non-profit/academic, as associate for \$0)
  - Joining HPSF at one of three levels:
    - Premier: \$175k / year
    - General: \$2.5k – \$50k / year depending on size of organization
    - Associate: \$0 for non-profit / academic
  - Take a stand, fund it & get a say on where the funding goes to
- Joining as a project (for software project)
  - For the High Performance Computing ecosystem
  - That need a neutral home to facilitate multi-institutional collaborations
  - Providing vendor neutral solutions to engineering and science computational needs
  - Committed to building an open developer and user community

# HPSF Software life-cycle



- **Core** projects have a **reliable & sustainable development** process
  - The **developer base** is strong and diverse
  - The **funding sources** are multiple
  - The **governance** is well specified
    - No single institution has a majority in the project lead
  - The project also fulfils all Established requirements
- **Established** projects are **production-strategic** for a **wide base of users**
  - The **user base** is wide and diverse
  - The **development process** is well documented and newcomers-friendly
  - The **development** is strong and steady
  - The project also fulfils all Sandbox requirements
- **Sandbox** projects are **free, open, neutral**, and **aim for the above**
  - Are **free, libre, open-source** HPC-related projects
  - With a **code of conduct**
  - And an aim to **widen developer and user-base** beyond a single institution

# What kind of software is in HPSF so far?

## Build & Deploy

- Build your software with tools that support all major computing architectures
- Deploy with cloud-ready packaging and container technologies on everything from your laptop to the largest exascale supercomputers

## Develop & Sustain

- Leverage performance-portable software technologies
- Reuse high-quality scientific computing libraries including programming models, solvers, and visualization
- Foster community development for modeling and simulation applications

## Analyze & Tune

- Profile your software with tools targeted at HPC environment
- Tune your software using information that connects performance data to how your software leverages HPSF projects



**Spack**



**WarpX**



**E4S**



**APPTAINER**



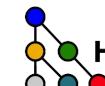
**kokkos**



**Charliecloud**



**Viskores**



**HPCToolkit**

# With CExA, CEA goes for Kokkos!

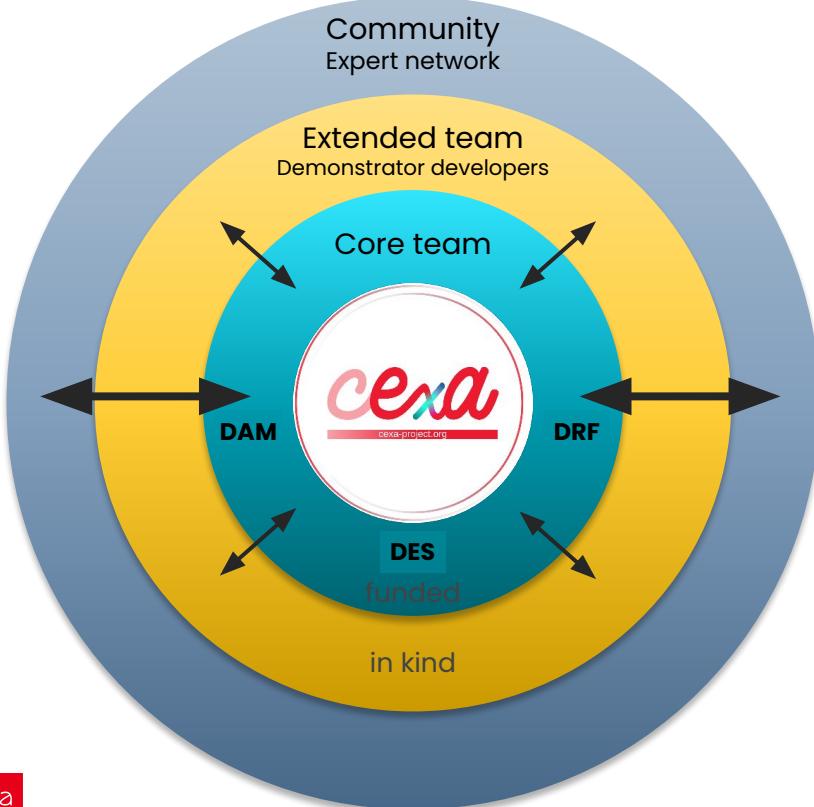
“adopt and adapt” strategy based on  Kokkos

- Kokkos : a **strong technical basis**

- A software architecture ready for the future
- Mature, free, libre, and open-source
- An **independent foundation** to own the product
  - HPSF under the Linux Foundation
- A **standardisation** effort in **ISO C++**
  - A **stepping stone** one step ahead toward **HPC C++**



# CExA project in practice



## ■ Core team

- Management, implementation and dissemination
- Fully integrated in the Kokkos team
- 13 researchers from all over CEA
- 3 recruitments done, 5 more funded
- Funding for 3 more hires expected next year

## ■ Extended team

- Demonstrator developers
  - Not funded
  - Find their own interest in the participation
  - 2-3 new demonstrators every year

## ■ Community

- Federation of an **expert network**
- Co-design of **CExA**:
  - Identification of needs
  - Usage of **CExA** in applications
- Priority target for **dissemination**
- **Sustainability** of the work

# CExA: what's going on?

- Help with **documentation**
  - Website, Cheat-sheets, ...
- **Trainings**, lots of training!
- **Support** our applications
  - Test **unified memory** viability & performance
  - Add required solvers to **Kokkos-kernels**
- Improve software **quality**
  - Work on **GPU CI**
  - Co-maintaining Kokkos **Spack recipes**
- Ease **code migration**
  - From **Fortran**
  - From **C (with classes)**
  - From **OpenMP (CPU)**
- Test **hardware** & improve kokkos for it
  - **Intel PVC** backend improvement
  - **Nvidia Grace Hopper** memory management handling
- Add **our contributions** to Kokkos ecosystem
  - **DDC**
    - Discrete data & computation
  - **kokkos-fft**
    - Performance portable FFT with a Kokkos API
  - **Kokkos-comm**
    - Message passing integrated with Kokkos

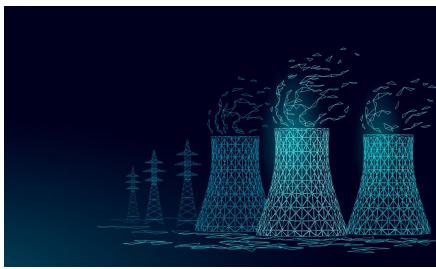
# To conclude



- Kokkos is a strong vendor-neutral, performance portable Exascale programming model with GPU support



- CExA & HPSF ensure it is a sovereign and sustainable approach that can be relied on for the foreseeable future



- A strong dynamic all over the CEA and beyond
- A knock-on effect with new synergies identified every weeks with code developers

# The core team

**Julien Bigot**

*Principal investigator*



**Ansar Calloo**

*Group leader*



**Cedric Chevalier**

*Group leader*



**Mathieu Lobet**

*Group leader*



**Yuuichi Asahi**

*Senior developer*

**Rémi Baron**

*Senior developer*



**Thomas Padoleau**

*Senior developer*



**Paul Zehner**

*Developer*



**Hariprasad Kannan**

*Developer*



# The extended team

**Pierre Ledac**

*Trust/TrioCFD lead*



**Virginie Grandgirard**

*GyselaX++ lead*



**François Letierce**

*Triclade lead*



**Julien Jaeger**

*DAM link*



**Édouard Audit**

*Network animator*



**Samuel Kokh**

*DES link*



**Patrick Carribault**

*DAM link*



# Join us & join the fun!

Come visit  
us at booth  
4143: **CEA**  
4648: **HPSF**

**HPSF BoF,**  
Tuesday 5:15PM,  
B309

## 2-years HPC DevOps Engineer position

Deployment and CI on supercomputers for the C++ Kokkos library within the “Moonshot” CExA project

CEA is recruiting DevOps engineers for a 2-year period to join the CExA “Moonshot” project team, which is setting up CEA’s GPU computing software stack around the Kokkos C++ library, to contribute to innovative packaging, deployment and continuous integration approaches for supercomputers, based in particular on Spack. A team of more than 10 people is currently being set up. The positions will be based at the CEA Saclay site near Paris.



## 2-years C++ expert engineer position

Contribution to the development of the Kokkos GPU computing library within the CExA “Moonshot” project

Join the CEA’s ambitious “Moonshot” project, CExA, and contribute to the development of the Kokkos GPU computing library. We are recruiting six talented and enthusiastic C++ development engineers for a period of 2 years to work at our CEA Saclay site near Paris.



<https://cexa-project.org>



# Kokkos training & community animation

- Many Kokkos trainings
  - September 2023 with C. Trott & D. Lebrun Grandié in Saclay
  - March 2025 Hackathon at IDRIS
  - September 2024 w. D. Lebrun Grandié & L. Berger-Vergiat
  - November 2024 Mission Numérique CEA in Grenoble
  - January 2025 CEA/Riken winter school in Barcelona
  - January 2025 Hackathon w.
  - February 2025 Mission numérique in Cadarache
  - Summer school 2025 w. EDF & Inria
- Kokkos slack now has a #general-fr channel (~10% of the whole community)
- CExA virtual café once a month
  - Informal presentations & discussions, in French about Kokkos, its ecosystem & GPU at large
- Kokkos virtual tea-time once a month
  - Informal presentations & discussions, in English about Kokkos, its ecosystem & GPU at large
  - With our US partners



The project CExA in practice News Our demonstrators Community & Contacts Join us Our presentations The tea time

**Latest News**

**November 20th 2024: fifth Kokkos tea time**  
Register to be notified about future events CExA organizes its fifth International Kokkos tea-time on Wednesday, November the 20th, 2024 for 45min starting at 8AM MT, 10AM EST, 2PM UTC, 4PM CEST.  
Oct 24, 2024

**November 4th 2024: tenth CExA coffee**  
Register to be notified about future events CExA organizes its tenth CExA virtual coffee on Monday, November the 4th, 2024 starting at 1PM CEST. It can be followed on Zoom, by phone, from a video room or from the Mandelbrot room in the DIGITeS Saclay building, France.  
Oct 24, 2024

**October 25th 2024: CExA Steering Committee**  
Register to be notified about future events CExA organizes its tenth CExA steering Committee on Friday, October the 25th, 2024 for the whole morning, starting at 9AM CEST. The public part of this session can be followed on Zoom, by phone, from a video room or from the Room 24 of the DIGITeS building, France.  
Oct 18, 2024

**October 16th 2024: fourth Kokkos tea-time**  
Register to be notified about future events CExA organizes its fourth International Kokkos tea-time on Wednesday, October the 16th, 2024 for 45min starting at 8AM MT, 10AM EST, 2PM UTC, 4PM CEST.  
Oct 1, 2024

**7 October 2024: ninth CExA coffee**

