**Introduction**

The ASCOT5 code computes the orbits of energetic ions in magnetic fields, including tokamaks. The code is freely available at

<https://wiki.aalto.fi/pages/viewpage.action?spaceKey=ASCOTCo&title=Guide+to+ASCOT5>

Users need to register to download ASCOT5. We run ASCOT5 at the NERSC supercomputer center in California, nersc.gov. John Wright manages our relationship with NERSC and he is a good source of information about NERSC and running jobs at NERSC. Nathan Howard also has extensive experience running big jobs at NERSC. Pablo Fernandez-Rodriguez is a great resource for all things Python and he has some experience helping me out with ASCOT.

Users can manage their NERSC accounts, e.g. learn how much CPU time they have consumed, at the website <https://iris.nersc.gov/login>. when logging onto nersc.gov, users need to append a one-time passcode (that in my case is generated by an app on my cell phone) to the fixed password, but for reasons unknown to me, when logging onto iris, you give just the password, then you will be prompted for the one-time password.

In 2019, ASCOT held a user-training program in Finland. Unfortunately, the ASCOT program is funded by the EU and so EU applicants are given priority, and I was not selected to attend. I would recommend that ASCOT users attend this training if possible if it is offered again in the figure. ASCOT does film the training, but I found the audio quality quite poor.

There is another orbit-following code named SPIRAL maintained at PPPL by Gerrit Kramer (gkramer@pppl.gov). We have done extensive benchmarking between SPIRAL and ASCOT, and the codes now agree – the benchmarking process did reveal some problems in both the SPIRAL and ASCOT pre-processors. Gerrit is a good resource to discuss orbit-simulation issues if you can’t find me.

Slack channel: There is a Slack channel for ASCOT (<https://app.slack.com/client/TQ9MKFHR8/CQB1GDFT5> and <https://app.slack.com/client/TQ9MKFHR8/CQB1GDUP5/thread/CQB1GDUP5-1600622309.027900> ) are my links, but I’m not sure whether that link will work for everyone)

Documentation: when you download and install ASCOT5, it generates a set of documentation. My downloaded version of the documentation is available at: <file:///C:/Users/sscott/Documents/ripple/ASCOT_handover/MyAscotHelp/index.html>

There is human help available at <https://version.aalto.fi/gitlab/groups/ascot/-/issues>. Keep in mind that the ASCOT development team is in Finland, which is about 7 hours ahead of EST time.

Weekly meetings: The ASCOT team holds more-or-less weekly meetings, currently on Tuesdays at 8 AM. The ASCOT team moved the time of this meeting to accommodate attendees in the US.