

The logo for ExCALIBUR 10, featuring the word "ExCALIBUR" in white and "10" in white inside an orange circle.

ExCALIBUR  
10

# NEPTUNE: PARTICLES

Will Saunders  
UKAEA

NEPTUNE Workshop  
5-6 September 2022

© Crown Copyright 2022

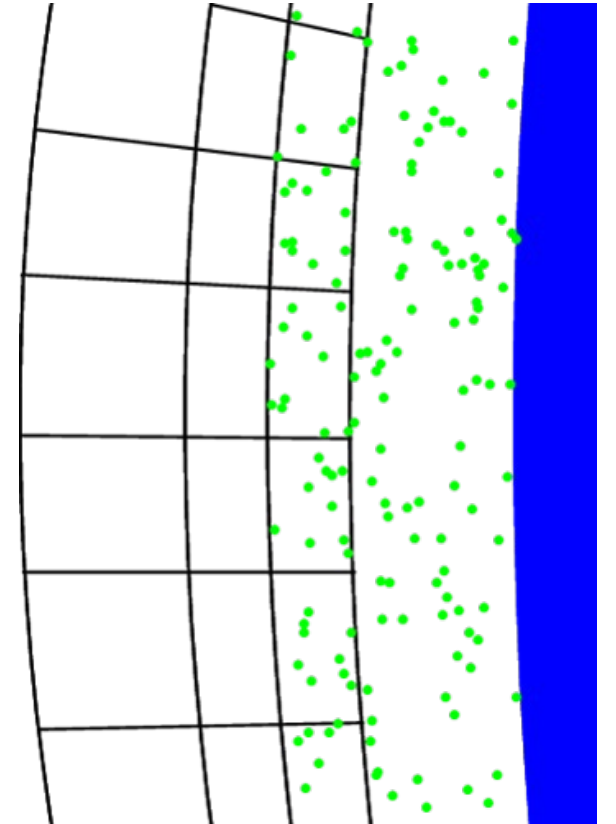


UK Atomic  
Energy  
Authority



# NEPTUNE Particle Use Cases

- Kinetic representations (I.e. distribution functions are not Maxwellian).
- Plasma
  1. Tritium, Deuterium fuel
  2. Alpha particles
  3. Ionised impurities
- Neutrals
  1. Injected (diagnostics)
  2. Recombined plasma (cooler regions)
  3. Sputtering from wall (molecules ejected from wall)
  4. Impurities
- Boundary conditions
- Less interested in molecular dynamics style operations – e.g. pairwise interactions.
- Small quantities of impurities important due to strong localised radiation.



---

# NEPTUNE Particle Usage

- **Domain Specialists** desire a high-level interface
  1. Varying levels of interface to match desired level of control.
  2. e.g. Create a set of particles from an existing species and distribution.
  3. e.g. Per-particle control of properties and particle creation/deletion.
- **Computational scientists**
  1. Abstraction for particle data
  2. Abstraction for particle operations
  3. Works for both plasma and neutral species
- Both parties want efficiency across architectures without re-write (performance-portability).

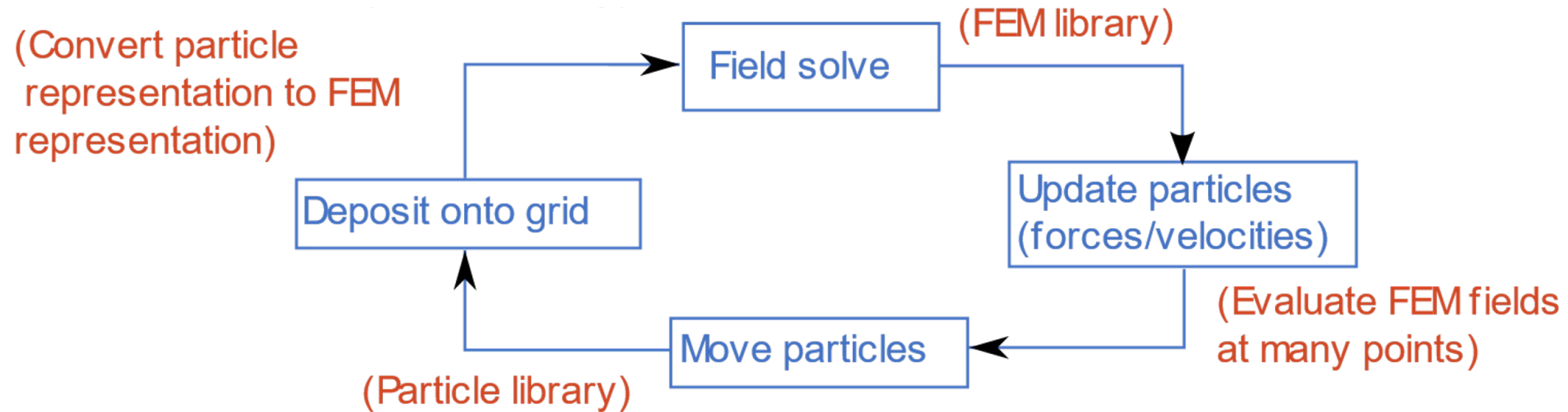
---

# Core Components

- Particle data communication
  1. Highly directional plasma flow (along field lines)
  2. Fast neutral flow (typically global and omnidirectional)
  3. Unstructured high-order mesh
- Particle current deposition / field evaluation
  1. Compute FEM fields for the deposition stage
  2. Evaluate FEM fields for particle push
- Particle Based Operations/Data structures
  1. Particle properties – position, velocity, charge, id...
  2. Loops over particles
  3. Degrees of Freedom (DOF) – Particle Loops
  4. Particle – Particle Loops

# PIC Loop

## Overview

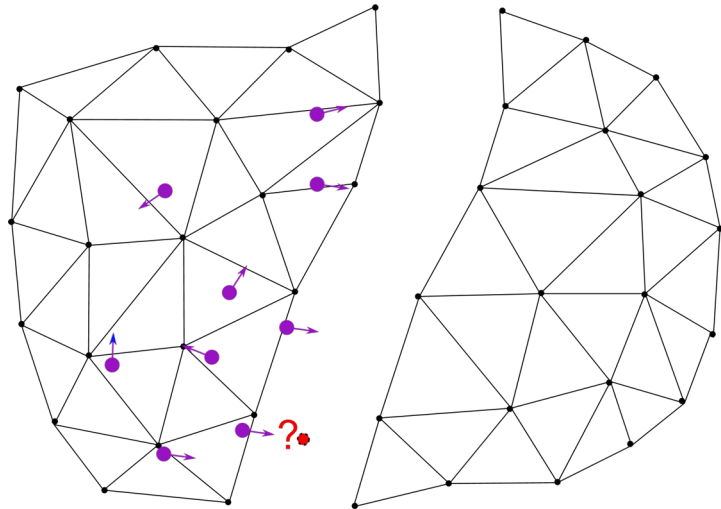
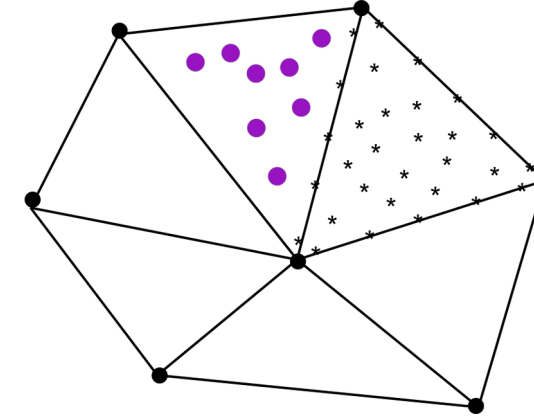


- **Rough overview** – More involved (and useful) schemes may combine steps.
- PIC schemes which exist to **conserve quantities** of interest, e.g. **charge(mass)**, **energy** and momentum.
- Loop till convergence/end time.

# Efficient Particle Implementation

## Functional Requirements

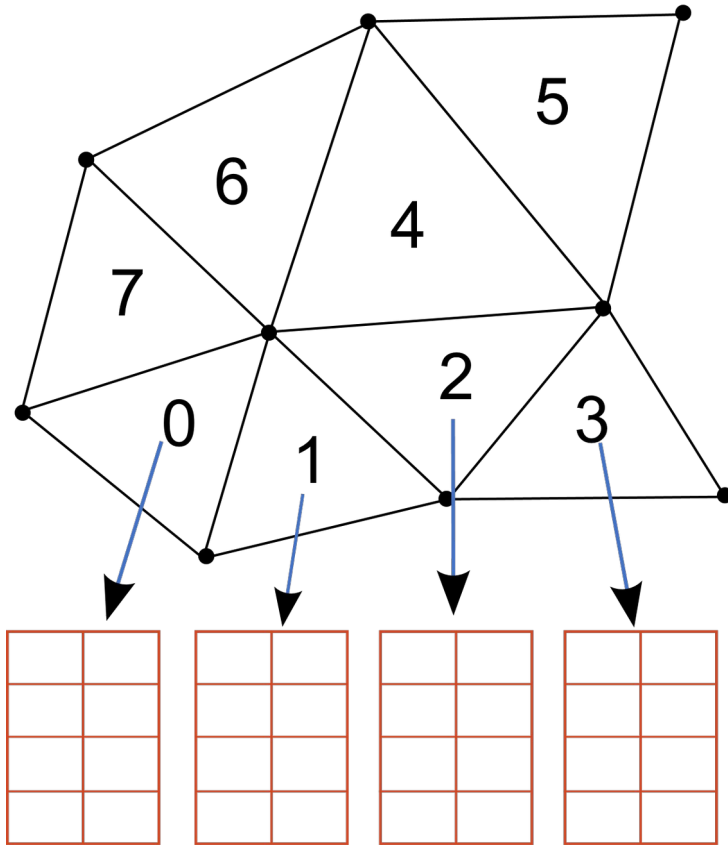
- Enable efficient particle – grid operations.
  1. Hybrid/dual representations as particle and continuum.
  2. Continuum evaluation at many points
  3. Motivates close coupling between mesh and particles.



- Efficient and scalable particle movement.
  1. Fast (essentially global) movement of neutrals
  2. Anisotropic flow
- Target implementation for a DSL.
  1. Generate looping operations/tasks

# Data – Each mesh cell

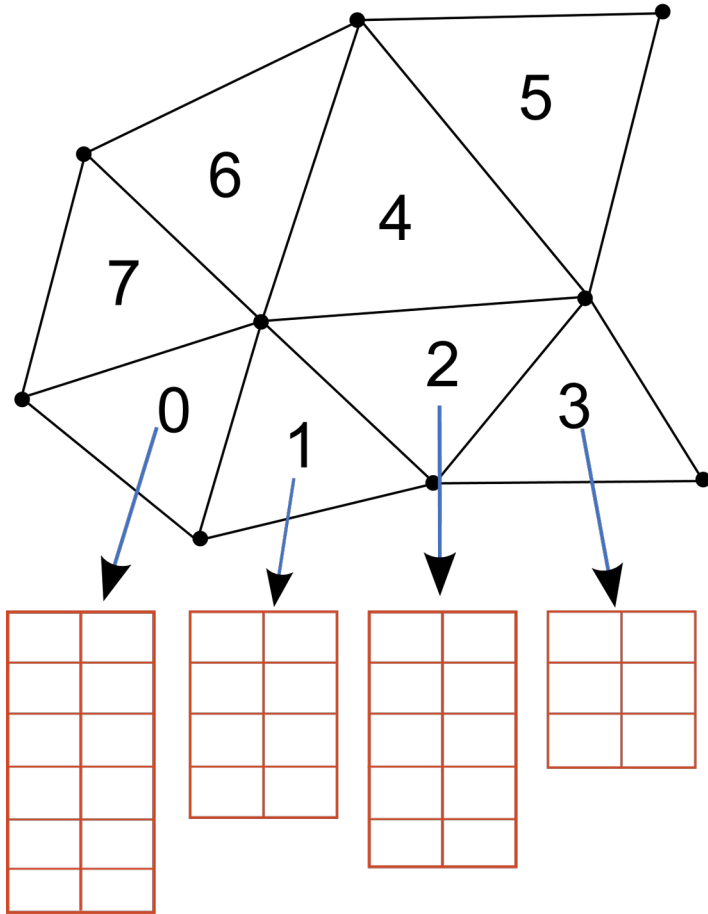
## CellDatConst



- Datatype, Column count and Row count (per cell) fixed at construction
- Device allocated ([syc::malloc\\_device](#))
- DOF Data
- Expansion coefficients
- Geometry/domain information
- Lookup indices

# Data – Variable Row Count

## CellDat



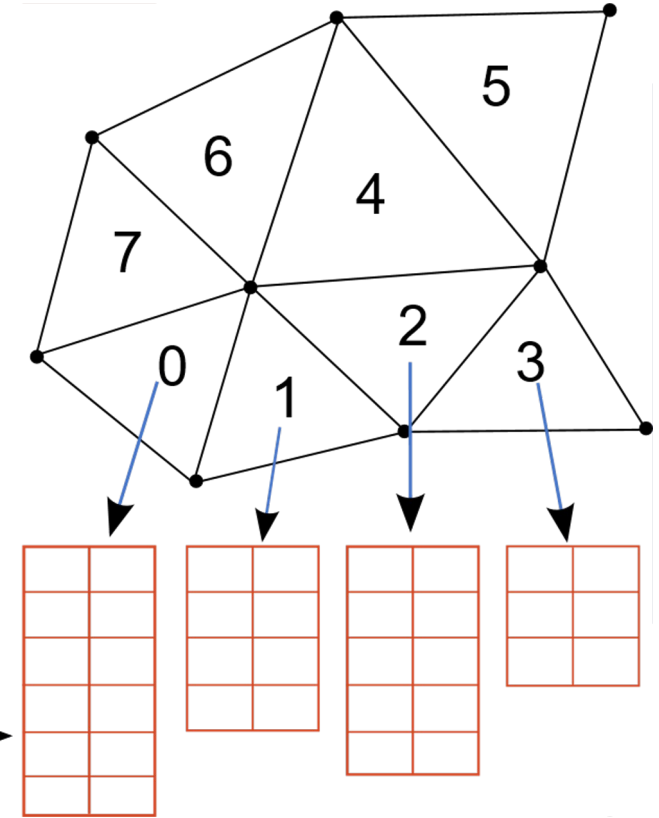
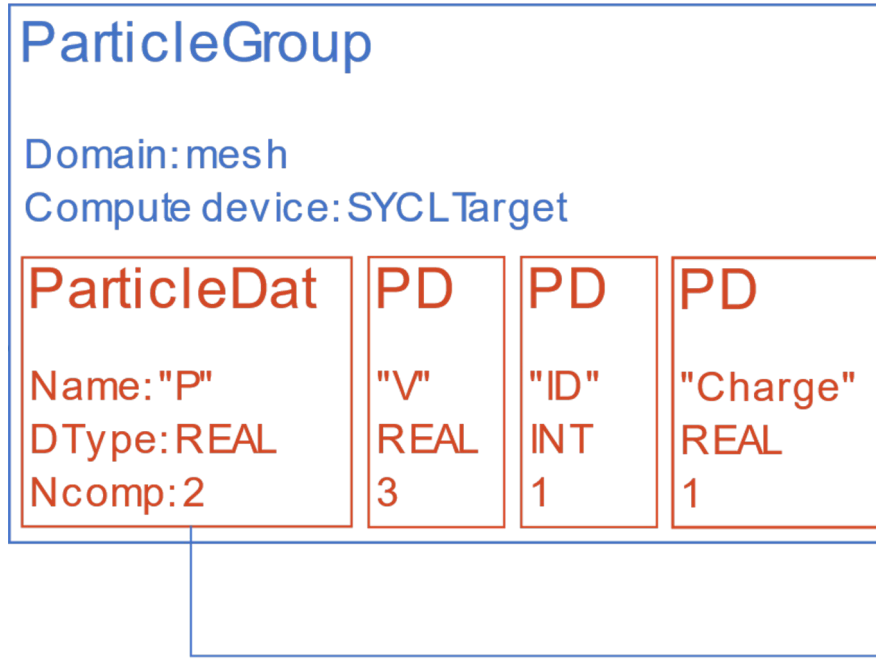
- Datatype and Column count (per cell) fixed at construction
- Variable number of rows (per cell)
- Device allocated (`sycl::malloc_device`)
- Base container for particle data, e.g. A floating point CellDat with 2 columns could store 2D positions.
- Per cell storage is advantageous for particle – grid operations



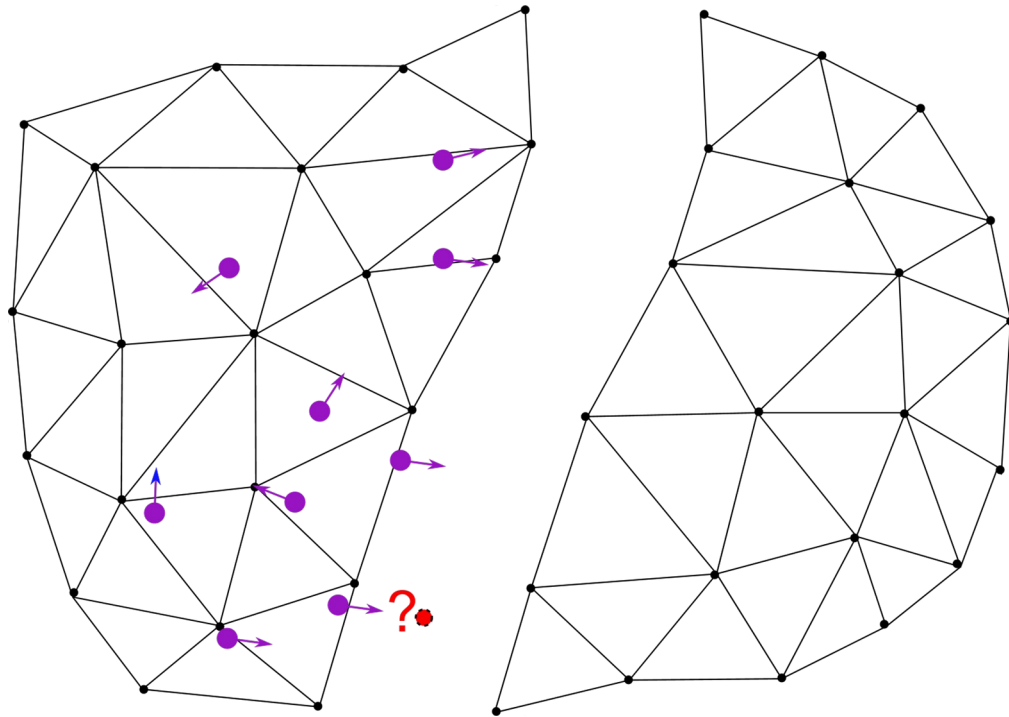
# Particle Data

## ParticleGroup, ParticleDat

- Combines the: **mesh**, **compute device** and **particle data**.
- Implements particle bookkeeping – cells and MPI ranks.
- General particle properties, e.g. charge, mass, weight, velocity.



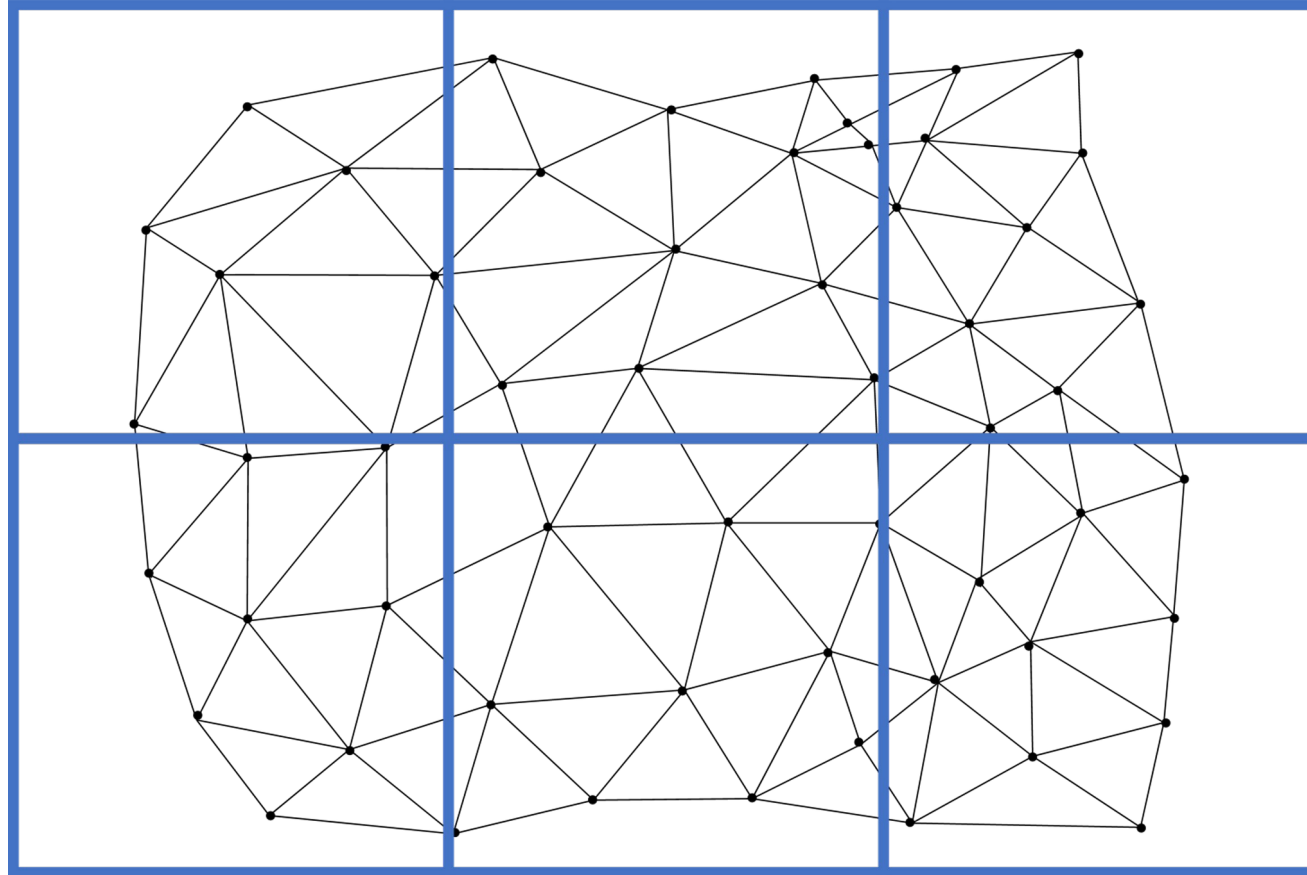
# Global Particle Movement



- Efficiently transfer particle ownership – domain decomposition
- Fast moving particles – essentially global
- Want local communication patterns where possible
- Minimise number of non-linear solves (high-order mesh)

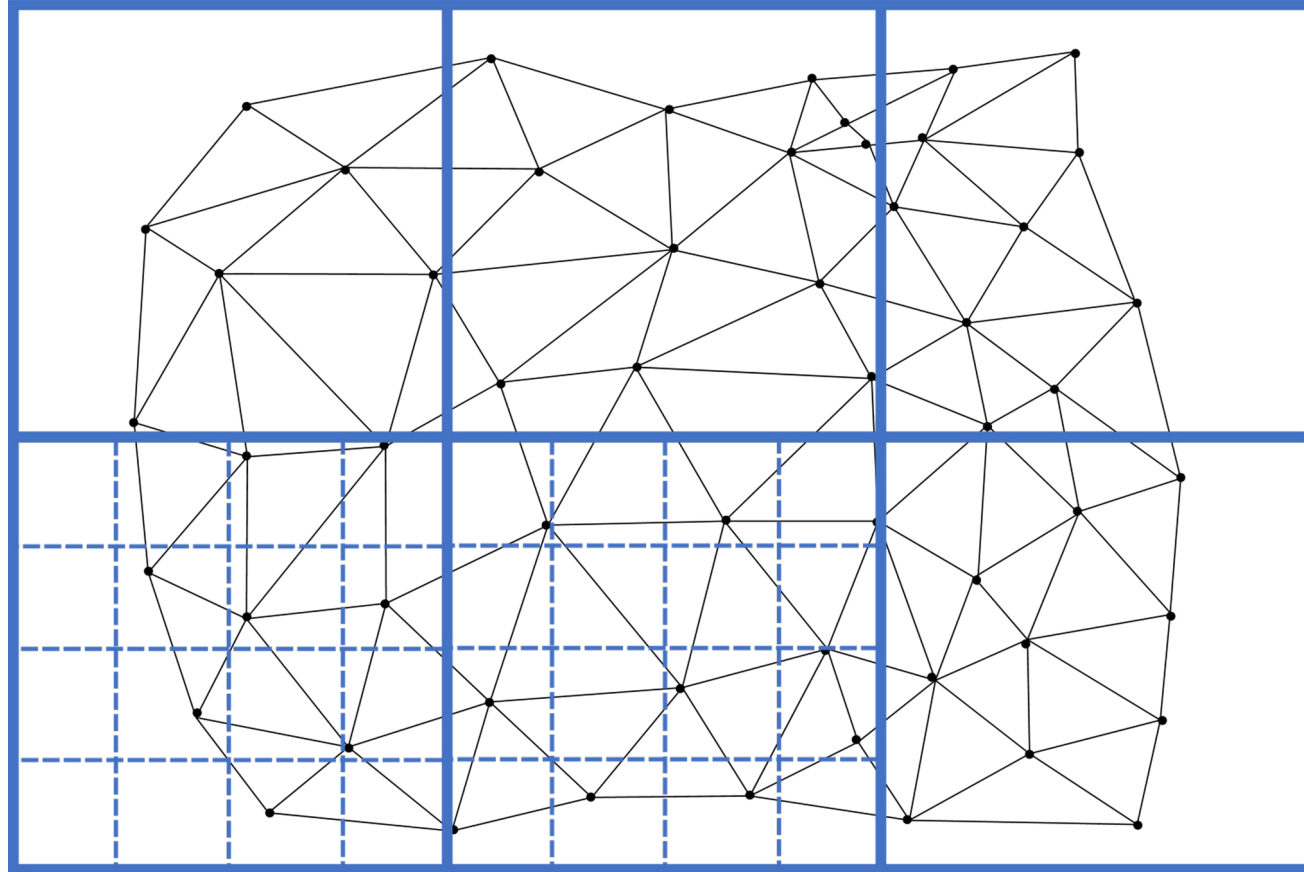
# Solution

## Overlay Coarse Grid of squares/cubes



# Solution

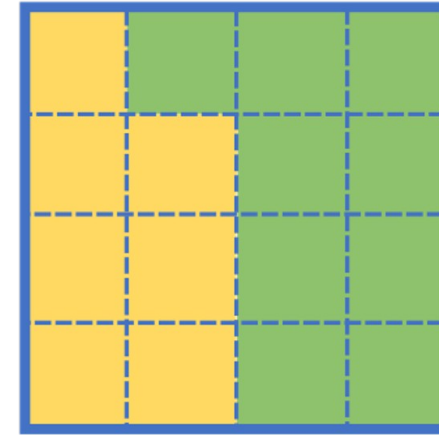
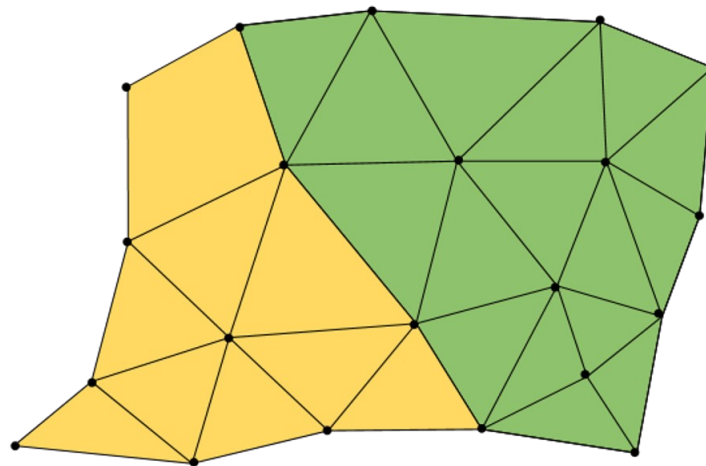
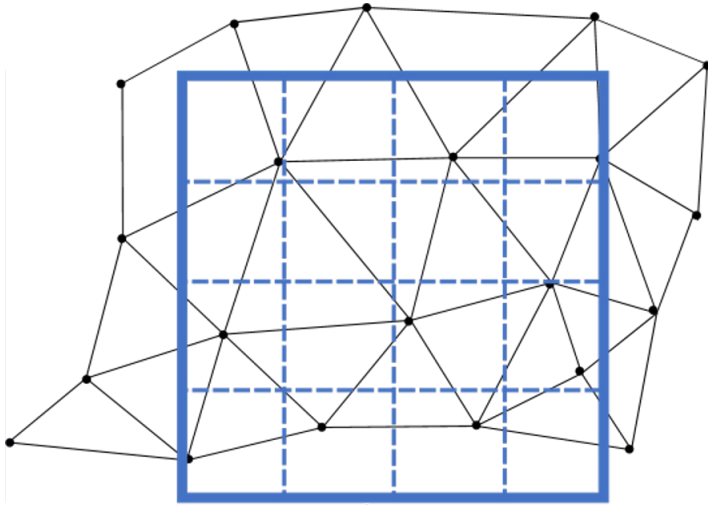
## Subdivide coarse mesh cells





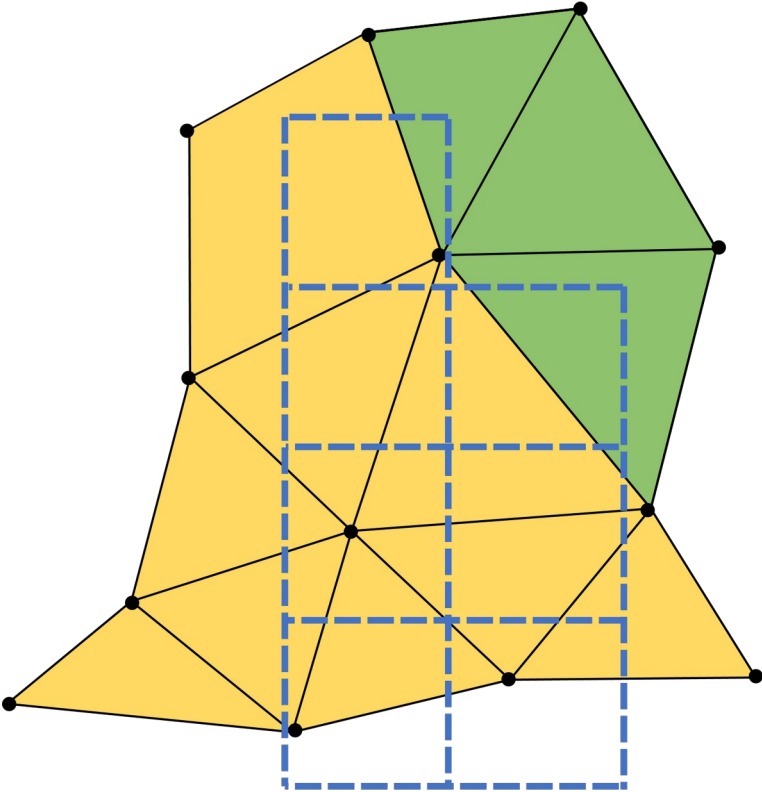
# Decompose Fine Mesh

Assign MPI owners to fine mesh cells



# Build Halo Regions

## Duplicate Geometry Objects



- Duplicate remotely owned geometry to cover owned coarse mesh cells.
- Store owning rank and local id of copied geometry.
- Particles in the coarse mesh cells can be mapped to geometry objects and owning ranks.
- Setup point-to-point communication patterns between neighbours.
- Halo width is tuneable – increase local communication.

# Hybrid Particle Transfer

## Global + Local Transfer

For each particle:

Attempt to bin into local mesh cell (either owned or halo)

For "far moving" particles (not binned into owned or halo cells):

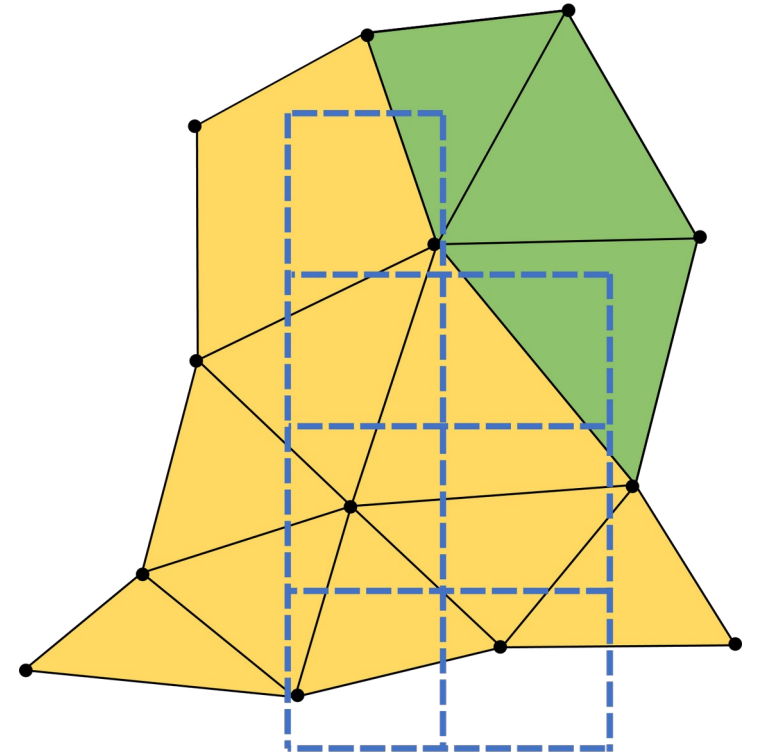
Transfer to MPI rank owning overlaid cartesian cell  
(global transfer)

For each particle received in global transfer:

Bin into local mesh cell (either owned or halo)

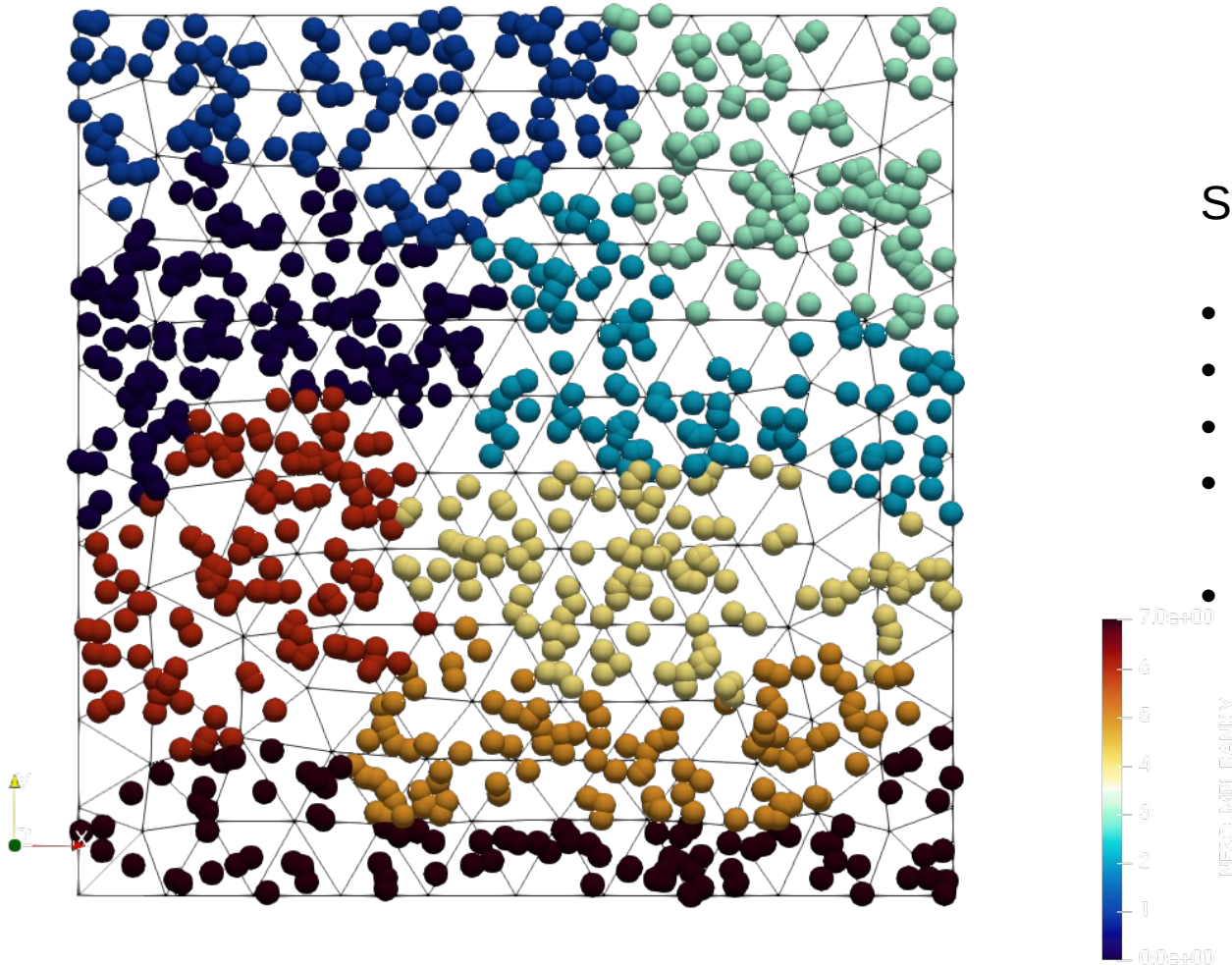
For "locally moving" particles:

Transfer to neighbour using local communication pattern.



# Trajectory Snapshot

Colour – owning MPI rank



Summary:

- On device particle state and computation[1].
- Performance oriented data structures.
- Base implementation for DSL.
- MPI domain decomposition with hybrid (global + local) move.
- Particle transport on 2D linear Nektar++ meshes[2].

[1] <https://github.com/ExCALIBUR-NEPTUNE/NESO-Particles>

[2] <https://github.com/ExCALIBUR-NEPTUNE/NESO>



# The End

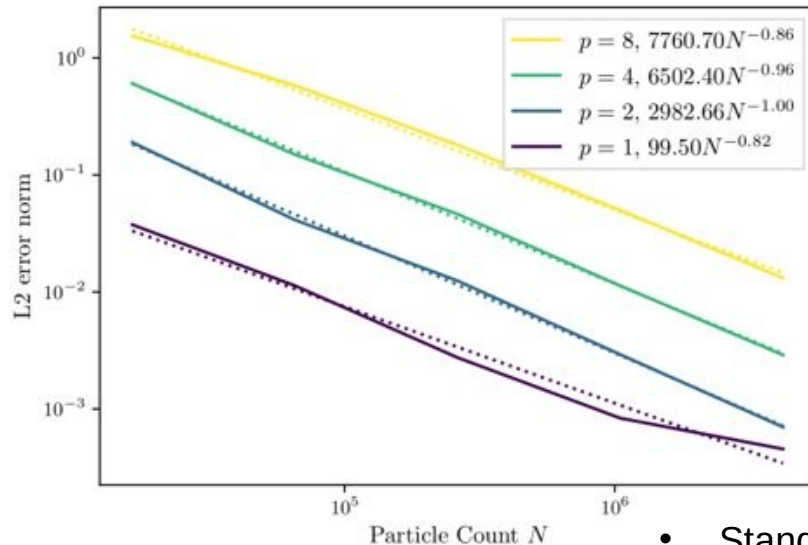
## UKAEA NEPTUNE:

Rob Akers  
Wayne Arter  
Matthew Barton  
James Cook  
Joseph Parker  
Owen Parry  
Will Saunders  
Ed Threlfall

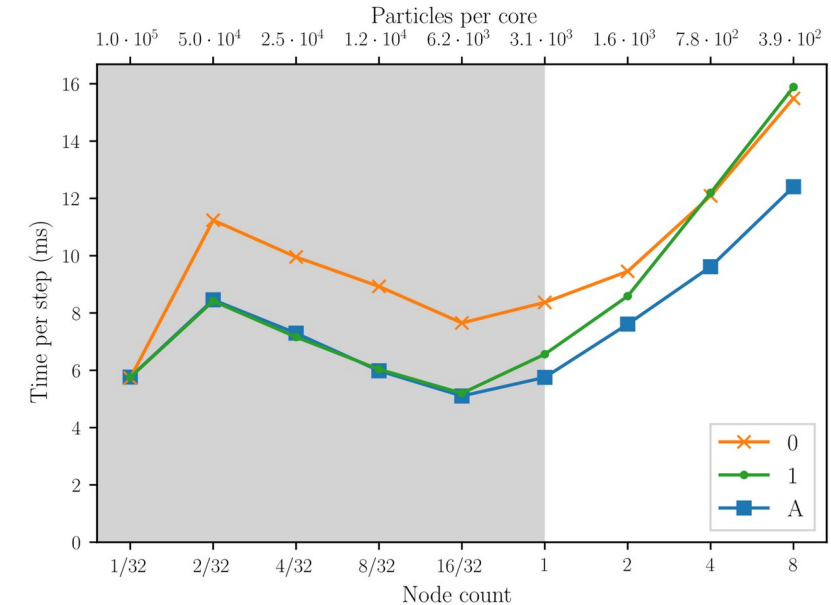
*The support of the UK Meteorological Office  
and Strategic Priorities Fund is acknowledged.*

# Core Components – Exploratory Ideas and Progress

- **Particle data communication**
  1. Combine **coarse grid/octree** with **halo cells**
  2. Majority of transport using **local communication patterns through halos**
  3. Global communication where needed (MPI RMA)
- **Particle current deposition / field evaluation**
  1. L2 Galerkin projection inspired (for deposition)
  2. Cell-wise data representation: **DOFs/Coefficients**
  3. Cell-wise loops between **particles** and **DOFs**



- Standard L2 error computed against reference 2D Gaussian
- Higher FEM order captures more particle noise



0: Halo width 0  
1: Halo width 1  
A: Adaptive halo width

# Particle DSL - Exploratory Ideas and Progress

- User/Developer facing
- Separation of Concerns
- Abstraction:
  - Data Structures: Particle/FEM DOFs
  - Looping operations: **Iteration set + kernel + access descriptors**
    1. Loops over particles
    2. Cell-wise loops over particles and DOFs
    3. Pairwise particle loops (for particle-particle interactions)
- Implementation
  1. SYCL – low level target language
  2. Python **code generation** framework
  3. DSL embedded in Python
  4. PPMD/pyOP2 inspired

```
advection = ParticleLoop(  
    target_device, # where to execute  
    Kernel(  
        "advection_kernel",  
        """  
        P[ix, 1] += V[ix, 1] * $dt  
        P[ix, 2] += V[ix, 2] * $dt  
        P[ix, 3] += V[ix, 3] * $dt  
        global[1] += 1  
        """  
    ),  
    Dict( # map from kernel symbols to data  
        structures  
        "P" => (particle_group["P"], WRITE),  
        "V" => (particle_group["V"], READ),  
        "global" => (global_data, INC),  
    )  
)  
execute(advection)
```